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FBIS-EAS-92-222 CONTENTS *17 November 1992*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Tokyo, U.S. Officials Satisfied With Exercise *[KYODO]* 1
MITI 'Watching' U.S. Ceramics Complaints *[KYODO]* 1
West Expected To Approve Russia Debt Deferral *[KYODO]* 1
PRC Orphans of Japanese Origin Seek Relatives *[KYODO]* 1
Suspected PRC Illegals Allowed To Disembark *[KYODO]* 2
Visiting PRC Official Interviewed on 17 Nov *[KYODO]* 2
Planning Halted for 'Comfort Girls' Compensation *[YONHAP]* 3
Chilean President Arrives for Five-Day Visit *[KYODO]* 3
Deal Struck With Britain To Expand Flights *[KYODO]* 3
Tokyo Offers $12.8 Million for Somalia Airlift *[KYODO]* 3
Cambodia's National Assembly Chairman Visits *[KYODO]* 4
Says Demobilization Should Halt *[KYODO]* 4
Urges UN Sanctions Against KR *[Tokyo TV]* 4
Greenpeace Denies Blame for Ocean Collision *[KYODO]* 5
Kanemaru's Son Cited on Need for Eye Surgery *[KYODO]* 5
Kanemaru Undergoes Surgery *[KYODO]* 5
Opposition Rejects Proposal To End Diet Impasse *[KYODO]* 6
Miyazawa Delays Unveiling Political Reform Plan *[KYODO]* 6
MOF Negotiates With DA To Decrease Spending *[Tokyo TV]* 6
Secretaries General Discuss Supplementary Budget *[Tokyo TV]* 7
Business Groups Meet With MITI Chief 16 Nov *[KYODO]* 8
Official Says Stock Decline Linked to Diet *[KYODO]* 8
Stock Exchange Eases Rules on Public Offerings *[KYODO]* 8
Nagaoka Urges Clear Economic Outlook, Prospects *[KYODO]* 9
Wholesale Prices Decline for 14th Straight Month *[KYODO]* 9
Nagano Urges 'Every Means' To Spur Economy *[KYODO]* 9
MITI Considers New Textile Industry Policy *[KYODO]* 10
LDP, Opposition Compile Diet Relocation Bill *[KYODO]* 10
Transportation White Paper Stresses Rail Issue *[KYODO]* 10

North Korea

KCNA Views 'Cases of Murder' by U.S. Soldiers 11
'Tyranny' of U.S. Forces Denounced *[Pyongyang Radio]* 11
Daily Says Human Rights Abuse Claims 'Nonsense' *[KCNA]* 12
PRC Friendship Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang *[KCNA]* 12
Chongnyon Vice-Chairman Arrives for Visit *[KCNA]* 13
Radio on Party Foundation, Antiparty Maneuvers *[Pyongyang Radio]* 13
Economic Sectors Report 'Great Upsurge' *[KCNA]* 14

South Korea

Committee Delivers Protest on GI 'Atrocity' *[YONHAP]* 15
Officials To Discuss Approaches to Clinton Team *[YONHAP]* 15
Yeltsin's Visit Itinerary Reported *[YONHAP]* 15
Envoy Says Yeltsin To Clarify Asian Policy *[YONHAP]* 16
Yeltsin Visit To Boost Economic Cooperation *[YONHAP]* 16
Yeltsin Visit To Help Define Bilateral Relations *[YONHAP]* 17

Memorandum of Understanding With Russia Sought *[YONHAP]* 17
Economic, Trade Exchanges With Russia Stressed *[THE KOREA TIMES 17 Nov]* 18
Former Russian Legation Land on Talks Agenda *[YONHAP]* 18
Russia Lacks Evidence on Land Claim *[THE KOREA TIMES 17 Nov]* 19
Premier Says Kim Yong-sam Not To Meet Yeltsin *[YONHAP]* 19
Kim Yong-sam on Yeltsin Visit, U.S. Relations *[YONHAP]* 19
Russia Pays Interest on Loan to Former USSR *[YONHAP]* 20
Russian Economic Leaders Meet Business Group Head *[THE KOREA HERALD 17 Nov]* 20
ROK, CIS Firms To Build Industrial Complex *[YONHAP]* 20
Foreign Minister on Unification, U.S. Presence *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 16 Nov]* 21
Yi Chong-chan Inaugurates New Korea Party *[YONHAP]* 21
Announces Presidential Candidacy *[YONHAP]* 22
Daily Publishes Election Poll Results *[CHOSON ILBO 16 Nov]* 22

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Karens Bracing for 'Major' Government Offensive *[Bangkok THE NATION 16 Nov]* 23
Political Role for Military Criticized *[Radio DVOB]* 24

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Offer To Cut Back Import Duties Announced *[BERNAMA]* 25
Japan Urged To Join East Asia Economic Caucus *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 14 Nov]* 25
Opposition to Japan's Plutonium Shipment Planned *[KYODO]* 26
Concern Expressed Over Trade, Environment Link *[BERNAMA]* 26
Austria Asked To Delay Labeling *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 27

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Violations in Early Nov Reported *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 27
'Over 500' Vietnamese Troops Sent to Battambang *[Radio VGNUFC]* 27
Hun Sen Receives Former French Minister 14 Nov *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 28
Official on Arrival of French Navy Vessel 16 Nov *[KYODO]* 28
Chea Sim Leaves for Visit to Japan 14 Nov *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 28
Homage Paid on Czech, Slovak Leader's Death *[SPK]* 29

Indonesia

Sanctions Against Khmer Rouge Recommended *[Jakarta Radio]* 29
Japan Urged To Join ASEAN Against Regionalism *[KYODO]* 29
Opposition To Renominate Suharto for President *[BERITA BUANA 3 Nov]* 29
Suharto To Attend G-15 Summit, Visit France *[Jakarta Radio]* 30
Alatas on Territorial Waters Talks With Australia *[Jakarta Radio]* 30
Alatas, Australia's Evans Vow To Enhance Ties *[Jakarta Radio]* 30
Ministerial Forum With Australia Concludes *[Melbourne International]* 30

Philippines

Government To Request Grant, Loans From U.S. *[MANILA BULLETIN 15 Nov]* 31
Ramos: U.S. Request on Amnesty Program Studied *[Manila Radio]* 31
Defense Secretary Answers Request *[Manila Radio]* 31
Communist Rebels Favor Two-Day Cease-Fire *[Manila Radio]* 31
Congressman: Muslim Rebels Favor Christmas Truce *[Manila Radio]* 32
Defense Ministry Committee Clears 3 Top Officers *[Manila Radio]* 32
Ramos To Meet With Former Singaporean Premier *[MANILA STANDARD 17 Nov]* 32
NDF Confirms Plan for Coalition Government *[Manila Radio]* 32

Thailand

Deputy Premier on U.S. Trade Negotiations *[Bangkok Radio]* 33
Government Prepares for Trade Talks *[Bangkok Radio]* 33
Burmese Officials Arrive, Discuss Insurgent War *[THE NATION 17 Nov]* 34
Military in Timber Trade With SRV, Cambodia *[THE SUNDAY POST 15 Nov]* 34
Senior Officers Urge Buildup of Naval Forces *[BANGKOK POST 14 Nov]* 35
Minister on Possible Naval Base on Andaman Sea *[THE NATION 15 Nov]* 36
Regional Impact of Navy's Expanded Role *[THE NATION 16 Nov]* 37
1993 Military Exercises With Malaysia Planned *[Bangkok Radio]* 38
Bilateral Trade With Egypt To Increase *[BANGKOK POST 17 Nov]* 38

Vietnam

Leaders Hold Talks With Cuban Party Delegation *[VNA]* 39
Vo Van Kiet Receives Delegation *[VNA]* 39
Do Muoi Receives Cuban Official *[VNA]* 39
Thai Crown Prince in Hanoi for Official Visit 40
Arrives 15 Nov *[Bangkok TV]* 40
Vice President Receives Prince *[Hanoi Radio]* 40
President Hails Visit *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 16 Nov]* 41
Le Duc Anh Receives Prince *[VNA]* 41
Le Duc Anh Speaks at Reception *[Hanoi Radio]* 41
Crown Prince Replies *[Hanoi Radio]* 42
Vo Van Kiet Receives Prince *[VNA]* 42
Party Leader Receives Prince *[VNA]* 43

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Keating Emphasizes Importance of Trade With Asia *[Melbourne International]* 44
On Trade With Asia, U.S. Policies *[Melbourne International]* 44
Indonesian Nuclear Plant Plans Cause Concern *[Melbourne International]* 44

Japan

Tokyo, U.S. Officials Satisfied With Exercise

OW1611110892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1013 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. military leaders expressed satisfaction with a 10-day joint ground, naval and air defense forces exercise which concluded Monday, according to the U.S. forces in Japan.

Adm. Makoto Sakuma, chairman of the Joint Staff Council of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF), was quoted as saying the objectives of the exercise have been accomplished and that he is convinced that Japan and the United States "confirmed the significance" of the mutual security treaty.

The joint exercise involved some 4,500 U.S. and 9,500 Japanese participants.

He said that "through a series of bilateral exercises," the "tactical capabilities and credibility" of the SDF and U.S. forces "have been enhanced," according to a news release issued by the U.S. Forces, Japan.

It also quoted the commander of the U.S. forces in Japan, Lt. Gen. Richard Hawley, as saying they had achieved their goal of improving "operational, logistic and communication procedures within and between services and countries" in the exercise.

The U.S. commander described such exercises as necessary "to train our forces to the level that is required for them to do their jobs the way the world saw it done in the Gulf a couple of years ago," the release said.

MITI 'Watching' U.S. Ceramics Complaints

OW1611063492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0555 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Two U.S. ceramics makers have lodged a petition against leading Japanese ceramics company Kyocera Corp., complaining that its market-dominating products are threatening national security, Japanese Government officials said Monday.

The two companies, Coors Electronic Package and Ceramic Process Systems Corp., filed the complaints with the U.S. Department of Commerce under a provision in the U.S. Trade Law, said the officials of the Japanese Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The two U.S. companies say that Japanese products account for 90 percent of ceramics boards used for military-use semiconductors, the officials said.

If the Commerce Department approves the complaints it will hold a meeting with concerned officials.

The trade law allows the U.S. President to enforce import limits and other measures against any products that are proved to be a threat to national security.

The Japanese trade ministry will be watching the case for indications of the trade policy to be adopted by President-elect Bill Clinton, who has been calling for "economic" national security, ministry officials said.

West Expected To Approve Russia Debt Deferral

OW1711092792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0911 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Major Western creditor governments are likely to agree on a 10-year deferral of Russia's payments on the former Soviet Union's debts when their officials meet in Paris late this month, an international finance source said Tuesday.

The prospect of such an accord has become brighter as Russia and Ukraine have come closer to ironing out their differences on repaying the debts, the source said on condition of anonymity. Russia reportedly agreed last week to pay Ukraine's share of the debts in return for Ukraine giving up its claims on Soviet assets. Ukraine had claimed 16 percent of Soviet assets and liabilities.

The former Soviet debt is estimated at some 70 billion dollars, including about 30 billion dollars to Western government creditors. Russia has been negotiating on a rescheduling pact with the Paris Club, an informal group of creditor nations that gets together regularly in the French capital.

The source said the debt relief pact is likely to allow Russia to reschedule principal and interest payments on debts run up by the Soviet Union up to January 1, 1991, and due in 1993, for up to 10 years, including a five-year grace period.

Negotiations are also under way to let Russia delay for two to three years its payments on debts due in less than a year and on some debts accumulated between January and December 8, 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed, the source said.

Russia has asked the Paris Club to defer the payments it has taken over from nearly all former Soviet republics, saying it cannot make all debt payments in the wake of a decline in oil exports and a drop in industrial output.

PRC Orphans of Japanese Origin Seek Relatives

OW1611154792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1506 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—A group of 33 Chinese people of Japanese origin will arrive in Japan on November 24 to look for their parents and relatives more than 45 years after being separated from them in northeastern China in the closing days of World War II, government officials said Monday.

This will be the 23rd such group to come to Japan since March 1981 in the hope of being reunited with their parents or other relatives, the officials said.

Tens of thousands of Japanese reportedly had no alternative but to leave their children behind in China as "orphans" during the chaos and food shortages that marked the closing days of World War II as Japanese forces withdrew.

They returned to Japan after having either abandoned their children or asked Chinese people to raise them asstep-children.

The visiting group comprises 13 men and 20 women, whose average age is 50, the officials said. They will stay in the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center in central Tokyo.

Seven of the group come from Heilongjiang Province, six from Liaoning Province, five from the Inner Mongolian region and one each from the city of Tianjin, Hebei Province, Guandong Province, Gansu Province and Shandong Province, the officials said.

They said 29 of the 33 were under the age of 5 August 15, 1945 when Japan unconditionally surrendered to the allied forces, including China.

Only 10 of the group were quoted as saying they remember their own names in Japanese and their parents' names.

The group of war orphans will return to China on December 8, the officials said.

They said a total of 1,813 such people have visited Japan from China since 1981 to seek reunion with lost relatives, of whom 636 or 35.1 percent, have been successfully reunited with parents or other relatives.

Suspected PRC Illegals Allowed To Disembark

OW1611023192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0130 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Yokohama, Nov. 16 KYODO—Maritime Safety Agency officials on Monday morning started transfering a 142-member Chinese group confined aboard a small Taiwanese fishing boat in Yokohama port to a nearby storehouse, some 22 days after the vessel was escorted to Yokohama by a Japanese fishing boat.

The passengers, including 17 women, say they are from China's Fujian Province and were on their way to the United States. Only two of them are in possession of passports, agency officials said.

As the Chinese on board the fishing boat are suspected of having left China illegally, they had so far been refused permission to disembark from the 186-ton fishing boat.

The Justice Ministry and Foreign Ministry are still holding discussions on how the group should be handled, the officials said.

The Maritime Safety Agency said the removal of the Chinese from the vessel was "a temporary humanitarian measure."

The ship developed engine trouble on October 23 in the Pacific Ocean and was escorted by a Japanese fishing boat to Yokohama port on October 25.

On Sunday, one of the Chinese group went missing after jumping overboard following a clash between about 40 people on the boat and Maritime Safety Agency officials, agency sources said. Altogether, three people jumped into the sea, but two of them were soon rescued, the sources said.

The agency and the police are searching for the missing person.

Visiting PRC Official Interviewed on 17 Nov

OW1711121792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1200 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—A visiting Chinese Communist Party leader said Tuesday China has set the stage for a "great economic leap forward" to achieve its goal of quadrupling the country's per-capita gross national product by the end of this century.

Ye Xuanping, a member of the party's Central Committee and vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, an advisory body, made the remark in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

Ye said the most significant accomplishment at the party's 14th congress held in October was that the foundation was laid for the consolidation of a market economy under the principle of socialism. With the decision, he said, China is in a position to boost the per-capita GNP to four times that of 1980 by the end of the current century. That goal was originally set in the early 1980s.

Citing a remark by China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping at the beginning of this year—that it is a mistake to consider that market economy means capitalism and planned economy equals socialism—Ye said, "The economic system has nothing to do with the political system."

Asked about concerns that Sino-U.S. relations may worsen over the human rights issue with the election of Democratic candidate Bill Clinton as new U.S. president, Ye predicted there might be minor changes in the bilateral relationship. He added, however, that it is the American people and not political parties who determine their national interests.

Ye said Deng is in good health but China's domestic situation will remain stable and the country will continue to follow the present path of development after his death.

Planning Halted for 'Comfort Girls' Compensation

SK1711031492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0131 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—The Japanese Government has halted planning for compensation of Korean women forced into prostitution for its troops during World War II, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Monday.

South Korean dissatisfaction with the results of a Japanese probe into the comfort girl issue was behind the decision, YOMIURI said. It was also affected by uncertainty over what the next Korean Government's policy will be on the matter.

Tokyo in July acknowledged recruiting "comfort girls" during the war, but refused to admit forcing women and schoolgirls into prostitution, outraging South Koreans.

The matter has developed into an international issue with the United Nations adopting it and making it difficult for Tokyo to wriggle its way out of responsibility, the paper said.

The Japanese Government had planned to complete the planning this year to settle the issue through donations to the Red Cross or by building welfare facilities for the women, the paper said.

Chilean President Arrives for Five-Day Visit

OW1711091292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Chilean President Patricio Aylwin Azocar arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday on an official five-day visit for talks with Japanese leaders. Aylwin, the first Chilean president to visit Japan, will hold a meeting with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday. He is also scheduled to meet Emperor Akihito on Friday. Miyazawa is expected to offer Chile some 24 billion yen in loans to help Chilean projects such as ones modernizing railroads and completing water services, government officials said.

Deal Struck With Britain To Expand Flights

OW1611094092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0907 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Japan and Britain have agreed to allow each other to operate five weekly flights between Britain and New Kansai International Airport in Osaka, the Transport Ministry said Monday. The new airport, now being built on a man-made island in Osaka Bay, is slated to open in the summer of 1994.

The agreement, made after four days of aviation talks ended in London last week, also gives each country the right to increase the number of flights per week to seven one year after the airport opens, ministry officials said.

British Airways is now the only airline to run flights on the Osaka-Britain route, operating two round-trip flights a week.

Apart from the Osaka-Britain route, the two countries also reached agreement allowing each other to operate seven flights a week between the new airport and Hong Kong, the officials said. In addition, the two sides agreed to allow each other to add one flight between Hong Kong and a Japanese airport other than those where flights to Hong Kong currently originate.

Britain plans to decide on its additional Japanese destination as early as next January, while Japan has not yet made a decision, the ministry officials said.

Tokyo Offers $12.8 Million for Somalia Airlift

OW1611110792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, nov. 16 KYODO—Japan on Monday announced that it will provide 12.8 million dollars in funds toward international emergency relief efforts currently under way in Somalia.

Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, who made the announcement at a press conference, indicated the government has given up the idea of using transport aircraft of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to ferry food to Somalia's starving population.

Owada said 12.3 million dollars will be transferred to the World Food Program (WFP) to charter planes for the airlift, while the remaining 500,000 dollars will be donated to the United Nations volunteers.

Asked if the chartered planes would carry Japanese markings, he replied, "We would like to have it done in a way that clearly shows this is a Japanese contribution."

Japan's move follows a recent call by the United States for Japan to physically participate in the airlift operation along with other major countries.

Officials last week said the government had initially contemplated provision of C-130 transport aircraft, now being used to ferry goods to Cambodia for the U.N. Peacekeeping operation there.

They said the idea was dropped in view of the difficulties it would have faced in getting Diet approval.

The officials said Japan would probably hire a foreign charter company to do the job on its behalf since Japanese airline unions adamantly oppose involvement in potentially dangerous operations.

Japan was faced with a similar situation during the Persian Gulf war, at which time it was criticized for being unwilling to take risks. It had hired a U.S. charter company to transport supplies for allied forces opposing Iraq.

Owada said Japan's latest 12.8 million dollar financial contribution for relief efforts in Somalia brings the total it has contributed so far to 23 million dollars.

Relative to the size of the Japanese economy, though, that amount compares unfavorably with the 148 million dollars contributed so far by the United States, 80 million dollars by France, 43 million dollars by Britain, and 30 million dollars by Italy. Germany has contributed 24 million dollars.

Cambodia's National Assembly Chairman Visits

OW1411133992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 14 KYODO—Cambodian National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim arrived in Osaka on Saturday for a six-day visit to Japan for talks with Japanese Government and parliamentary leaders, Japanese officials said. During his stay through Thursday, Chea Sim will meet Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi and Social Democratic Party Chairman Makoto Tanabe.

Says Demobilization Should Halt

OW1711115392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1126 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Cambodian National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim said here Tuesday the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) should declare a halt to the demobilization of military forces now that all efforts to persuade the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group to cooperate have failed.

Chea Sim, reputed to be the most powerful figure in the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government of Premier Hun Sen, made the remarks in a joint interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE and the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK).

Chea Sim, who arrived in Japan on Saturday on a six-day unofficial visit, said further implementation of the second phase of the Cambodian peace process, namely cantonment and demobilization of the forces of the four Cambodian factions, is meaningless since the Khmer Rouge refuses to lay down its weapons.

"I think that UNTAC could declare officially the cessation of the second phase, thus avoiding inequality and destabilization," he said.

Chea Sim said the Khmer Rouge is refusing to demobilize its forces and blocking UNTAC access to zones under its control because it is stalling for time in preparation for a dry season offensive.

"I think the Khmer Rouge will adhere to their strategy of using force to topple our government," he said. "They don't entertain any hope of getting power through elections as they know the people hate them for the atrocities and genocide committed when their regime was in power."

Chea Sim said the only way left to force the Khmer Rouge to rejoin the peace process is for the United Nations Security Council to take "firm measures" by means of adopting a resolution on economic sanctions. He said Cambodia's border with Thailand must be sealed to prevent the Khmer Rouge from profiting further from its lucrative trade with Thai merchants in Cambodian lumber and gemstones.

"The reason that the Khmer Rouge still has a stubborn attitude is because they have enough money to continue their attacks," he said.

Chea Sim said that even if the Khmer Rouge continues to refuse to rejoin the process agreed on by all four factions in the October 1991 Paris peace accords, the election for a new National Assembly, now set for next May, should go ahead as scheduled. Noting that the Phnom Penh government controls 80 percent of the country's territory, he said, "This amount is sufficient for the (parliamentary) election."

Chea Sim said Supreme National Council (SNC) Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk is the only viable candidate to become Cambodia's president in separate presidential elections, since the country needs a leader who can wield influence over its disparate parties and mediate problems between them. The official noted that Sihanouk has agreed to stand for election only as long as the presidential election is held before the parliamentary election, not at the same time or afterwards.

Urges UN Sanctions Against KR

OW1711125392 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Excerpts] UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has compiled a report urging the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to shift its military activity to the monitoring of cease-fire violations and security for carrying out elections. The moves are designed to increase the monitoring of the Khmer Rouge [KR] faction, which has refused to disarm. Dr. Ghali will submit this report to the UN Security Council in the near future.

The Khmer Rouge faction has refused to comply with the disarmament provisions of the Paris peace accords that were signed last year, claiming that Vietnamese soldiers are still secretly stationed in the country. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Cambodian National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim has stressed that the United Nations should impose economic sanctions on the Khmer Rouge faction for its refusal to disarm. Chea Sim is currently visiting Japan. He said only the UN Security Council can force the Khmer Rouge faction to comply fully with the Paris

peace accords. He said that in addition to political measures, economic sanctions, such as closing the border with Thailand, would be the most efficient way to enforce disarmament. He urged the United Nations to take the necessary steps.

Greenpeace Denies Blame for Ocean Collision

OW1711122292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1153 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—The Japan branch of Greenpeace International on Tuesday denied a Maritime Safety Agency claim the group's vessel Solo was to blame for a November 8 collision between it and an agency ship escorting a shipment of plutonium to Japan.

The agency on Friday officially laid the blame on the Solo for the collision with the Shikishima in international waters off the French coast. The Shikishima is escorting the 4,800-ton Akatsuki Maru, a freighter carrying one ton of plutonium from France for use in a fast breeder nuclear reactor in Japan.

Naoki Ohara, Greenpeace Japan's executive director, said an agency claim that the Solo was overtaking the Shikishima immediately prior to the collision and the agency ship was maintaining course and speed is inconsistent with eyewitness accounts from other boats in the area.

Ohara said a report prepared by the international environmental group's Amsterdam-based legal department indicated the collision was a result of the Shikishima deliberately approaching the Solo. The Greenpeace account of the incident claims the Shikishima approached the Solo from behind, and then overtook it on the portside.

Ohara said the momentum of the two ships then drew them together in an initial collision which damaged the Shikishima's helicopter hanger and a stairway on the hangar. Ohara said the Shikishima then veered to the left and the Solo to the right to avoid further damage, but in doing so the sterns of both ships were brought dangerously close. He said the Solo then slowed and veered slightly left again to allow its stern to remain clear of the Shikishima and at this point the Shikishima again collided with the Solo.

Ohara said the Shikishima approached the Solo five times on the evening before the accident and the Solo complained to a nearby British Coast Guard vessel.

The Greenpeace report said eyewitness accounts from two other ships, the Greenpeace-chartered Smit New York and the Independent Forte, supported its claim. The report called on the agency to submit its claims to the Dutch courts or an independent tribunal.

Ohara said an initial report from the agency immediately after the collision did not refer to its later claim the Shikishima had been maintaining its direction and speed at the time of the accident.

The agency warned Friday the Shikishima may resort to firing warning shots or taking other action if it is again faced with the danger of a collision.

Ohara said the agency's decision to explicitly blame Greenpeace is an attempt by the Japanese Government to discredit the organization and get rid of the Smit New York.

Kanemaru's Son Cited on Need for Eye Surgery

OW1511090792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0824 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Nov. 15 KYODO—Retired political kingpin Shin Kanemaru postponed his hospitalization scheduled for Sunday [15 November] but will enter the hospital sooner or later, his son said. Shingo Kanemaru told reporters his father "will not be hospitalized Sunday" for cataract surgery. But Kanemaru's eye condition is so bad that he will undergo surgery some day, the son said.

On Saturday, Shingo Kanemaru told reporters his father would enter a hospital in Kanagawa Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, on Sunday to undergo the eye surgery. Kanemaru has been suffering from the cataracts, which damage eyesight, for some time. He underwent surgery to put a new lens in one eye in July 1988 but his condition has deteriorated recently, the son said.

Opposition parties have demanded that Kanemaru and former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita testify as sworn witnesses before the Diet about their roles in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal. Opposition parties criticized Kanemaru Saturday, saying the hospitalization plan was an apparent tactic to evade testifying at the House of Representatives Budget Committee. Kanemaru may agree to appear in the Diet to testify in the Diet, LDP sources said. [passage omitted]

Kanemaru Undergoes Surgery

OW1711101692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0843 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Odawara, Kanagawa Pref., Nov. 17 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, the disgraced former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), underwent surgery on Tuesday for glaucoma of his right eye at a hospital in Odawara, Kanagawa Prefecture, doctors said. According to the doctors at Odawara Municipal Hospital, the operation took one-and-half hours and ended successfully.

The 78-year-old politician was admitted to hospital on Monday amid strong criticism by opposition parties that his sudden hospitalization is an attempt to keep the truth of the money-and-mob Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal from public knowledge. The opposition camp is demanding that 10 people, including Kanemaru, be summoned to the Diet as sworn witnesses to testify on

their alleged involvement in the scandal. [passage omitted on background of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal]

Kanemaru will also undergo surgery on his left eye, and will be in hospital for two to three weeks, the doctors said.

Opposition Rejects Proposal To End Diet Impasse

OW1711114192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) proposed Tuesday holding a meeting of secretaries general with opposition parties to break the stalemate in Diet business, party officials said. However, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) rejected the idea.

At a meeting of directors of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, the LDP suggested the meeting to settle an opposition demand to summon 10 people to the Diet as sworn witnesses over the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. scandal.

The opposition is especially insisting that five people, including former LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru and former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, be called to the Diet to testify under oath. The three others are Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of Tokyo Sagawa, Kiyoshi Sagawa, owner of the Sagawa Kyubin Group, and Kanemaru's secretary Masahisa Haibara. Diet business has been stalled because of disagreements over the matter between the ruling and opposition parties.

The LDP wants to hold the secretary general-level meeting Wednesday to pave the way for beginning Budget Committee debate Friday on a fiscal 1992 supplementary budget considered crucial to shore up the stagnant economy, the officials said. If the meeting goes ahead, how to go about questioning the hospitalized Kanemaru is expected to be a focal issue.

Kanemaru entered hospital Monday and underwent surgery Tuesday for a glaucoma of his right eye amid strong criticism by opposition parties his sudden hospitalization is an attempt to avoid questioning. Kanemaru will also undergo surgery on his left eye and be in hospital for two to three weeks, according to doctors at Odawara Municipal Hospital where he is treated.

A plan to question Kanemaru under oath at his bedside is emerging among opposition parties as a compromise to break the impasse in negotiations with the LDP, opposition sources said.

Kanemaru resigned from the House of Representatives in mid-October over his 1990 illegal receipt of a 500 million yen donation from Watanabe. He is also alleged to have asked Susumu Ishii, the late leader of major crime syndicate Inagawa-kai, through Watanabe in 1987 to help stop a rightist group's harassment of Takeshita, who was vying for the LDP presidency and premiership at the time.

Miyazawa Delays Unveiling Political Reform Plan

OW1711033992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0322 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday he has pushed back the date for unveiling a proposal by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) for sweeping political reforms from November to early December.

The plan is to fulfill a pledge Miyazawa made on taking office a year ago. He told reporters the delay is needed to avoid confusion during parliamentary debate on a more limited emergency political reform package he hopes the Diet will pass during its present session, slated to end early December.

The emergency political reform package focuses on a partial seat reallocation for the House of Representatives that would reduce the 3.34-to-1 disparity in the value of votes in some constituencies to 2.27-to-1.

The Supreme Court has ruled that a disparity of over 3-to-1 is unconstitutional.

Miyazawa's proposal for sweeping reforms, which has attracted wider attention in the wake of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money scandal, is expected to address the electoral system as well as calling for tighter rules on fund-raising.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference that the reform program would be drawn up as planned by the end of November, but would not be made public immediately.

He blamed the postponement on delays in Diet business which have prevented early handling of the reform legislation.

The Diet has been stalled over a disagreement among the LDP and opposition parties on how to handle testimony by deposed LDP kingpin Shin Kanemaru and other key figures implicated in the scandal.

MOF Negotiates With DA To Decrease Spending

OW1411210392 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] The Ministry of Finance [MOF] has begun negotiating with the Defense Agency [DA] to keep the defense budget's growth between 1 and 2 percent in fiscal year 1993 in response to the demise of the cold war structure. This is less than the initial budget request made by the DA.

In its initial request the agency requested 4.7169 trillion yen, which is 3.6 percent higher than the initial budget for this fiscal year.

On the other hand, the MOF expects serious revenue shortfalls next year due to the business slow down. They also expect criticism from the public for any defense buildup because of the collapse of the cold war structure. Therefore the MOF is trying to keep the growth rate of defense spending between 1 and 2 percent.

The ministry plans to curb personnel expenses and food costs for Self-Defense Forces [SDF] personnel by further lowering the sufficiency rate of SDF personnel. In addition, the ministry intends to reduce frontline equipment—including tanks and jet fighters—to a level which complies with a revision of the Mid-Term Defense Buildup Plan.

However, the DA strongly opposes large budget cuts, saying it is difficult to decrease payments for arms already supplied, and payments are to be made according to an agreement with the United States.

It seems likely complicated negotiations regarding the defense budget will continue until the last minute.

Secretaries General Discuss Supplementary Budget

OW1711001592 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 15 November carries a 60-minute program in which the secretaries general of the ruling LDP and opposition parties are interviewed under the heading: "How Are We Going To Deal With Diet Questioning and Diet Delays?"

NHK Commentator Takashi Yamamoto separately interviews Tamisusuke Watanuki, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]; secretaries general Sadao Yamahana of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], Yuichi Ichikawa of Komeito, and Takashi Yonezawa of the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP]; and Chief Secretary Kazuo Shii of the Japan Communist Party [JCP]. The place and date for each of the interviews is not given.

The LDP's Watanuki stresses the need for the Diet to approve the supplementary budget as soon as possible, and blames the opposition camp for the stalemate. In response to a question on the current deadlock over the issue of Diet testimony by individuals allegedly involved in the Sagawa Kyubin scandal, he reiterates that such questioning should first be carried out by the Political Ethics Council. He adds that his party is not refusing to cooperate with the opposition camp in revealing the truth about the scandal. On the matter of whether or not the LDP will change its stance of not agreeing to the opposition parties' call for former Deputy Prime Minister Kanemaru and former Prime Minister Takeshita to testify at the Diet as sworn witnesses, Watanuki says: "The LDP is not refusing to clarify the truth. We are not saying 'no' to Diet questioning." Asked how the LDP intends to break the deadlock, Watanuki responds: "Since directors of the Budget Committee are scheduled to meet and start discussions, I am of the opinion that we will be able to reach mutual agreement."

From the outset of his interview, the SDPJ's secretary general, Yamahana stresses that his party will refuse deliberation on the supplementary budget until a satisfactory conclusion of the issue of Diet testimony is reached. Asked to comment on recent public criticism that the SDPJ's probe of the Sagawa scandal was half-hearted, Yamahana says his party has been playing the role of standard-bearer and will continue to do so. He says: "We will take up the issue of the supplementary budget after disclosing the truth about the scandal. We think they are both important issues."

Secretary General Ichikawa of Komeito also says his party cannot start budget discussions as long as the LDP stalls on the issue of Diet testimony. He says that "both Takeshita and Kanemaru should testify before the Diet." Asked about the LDP's announced intention to file suit against prosecutors for alleged libel, Ichikawa says "this is nothing but an attempt to create a disturbance and avoid the opposition parties' demand for Diet testimony." On budget deliberation, Ichikawa says: "None of the opposition parties are against the economic measures. We have not taken a vote on the supplementary budget. However, no opposition party is planning to kill the budget bill or prevent it from being approved. In that sense, I think it will not be difficult to conduct thorough budget discussions and to approve it during the current Diet session." He adds that his party "would like to resume discussions," but "only if the issue of Diet testimony is satisfactorily concluded."

Yonezawa of the DSP also reiterates the importance of Diet testimony, saying that "we have to do it for the sake of realizing political reform too." He calls the LDP's threat to file suit against the public prosecutors an "act without sober judgment." As did other secretaries general, Yonezawa explains the need to approve the budget bill soon. Touching on political reform, he says political fund laws must be revised in such a way that those who violate the Regulation of Money for Political Activities Act should be "deprived of their civil rights."

Asked to comment on the deadlock at the Diet, the JCP's Shii says the LDP is to blame for the situation because "it has been refusing to clarify the truth and to accept our request for Diet testimony." Citing the results of a recent newspaper survey, he says that "85 percent and 87 percent of the people have called for summoning Takeshita and Kanemaru to the Diet respectively." On the LDP's announced intention of filing suit against the prosecutors, he says this is "a very bad struggle and a pitiful sight." Regarding the supplementary budget, Shii states: "Our stance is that the issue of recession should be discussed at the Diet, by all means. But I think that the LDP side is the one which is preventing the discussions from going ahead. The LDP has opposed the Diet testimony and, because of this, we are unable to have budget discussions."

Business Groups Meet With MITI Chief 16 Nov

OW1611044792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0426 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Groups of small- and medium-sized companies urged the trade minister on Monday to work for a quick Diet approval of a supplementary budget with a view to aiding recovery of the nation's sluggish economy, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) officials said.

During a morning gathering with MITI Minister Kozo Watanabe, 12 representatives from the four business groups called for prompt and steady implementation of the government's pump-priming measures by quickly having the supplementary budget passed through parliament, and also requested monetary support, the officials said.

Watanabe responded by saying that he will make efforts for the passage of the supplementary budget within this month so that it can help speed economic recovery, they said.

Watanabe also expressed his intention to ask private banks to carefully consider the need that they not refrain from lending money, the officials said.

The business leaders pointed out that business conditions are getting worse even in small cities and real interest rates have not yet been lowered sufficiently, they said.

The four groups are the National Federation of Small Business Associations, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the All Japan Federation of Shopping Center Promotion Associations, and the Central Federation of Societies of Commerce and Industry, they said.

Official Says Stock Decline Linked to Diet

OW1611110392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0955 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—A top Finance Ministry official said Monday the renewed downturn of the Tokyo stock market is due to investor concerns about the fate of a supplementary budget now before the Diet.

Deliberation on the budget has been stalled by political turmoil stemming from a scandal involving the now-defunct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Delivery Company.

The official said the Diet has not even started discussing the supplementary budget, which is vital for implementing the government's fiscal stimulus package announced in late August.

"The market is negatively responding" to murky prospects about whether measures in the package, meant to support the economy and the stock market, will actually be implemented, the official said.

He said the government has clearly stated what steps it will take to prop up the market, but "it is not clear when they will be put into effect."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the outlook for the economy in general and for corporate profits is perceived by market players to remain uncertain.

"The uncertainty over the extra budget won't help boost the market sentiment," he said.

He added that there is no significant discrepancy between the ruling and opposition parties as far as their assessments of the economic condition.

The market will respond once the budget passes the Diet, he said.

Stock Exchange Eases Rules on Public Offerings

OW1711101592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—The president of the Tokyo Stock Exchange announced Tuesday revisions of the rules governing the public offering of stocks that are designed to make it easier for companies to go public. Minoru Nagaoka told a press conference the revisions in the self-governing rules are an embodiment of the proposals to boost the stock market included in the government's economic stimulus package announced in late August.

The rule changes include the way the offering price is set. Currently, a stock to go public is first put on the market at a price decided at bidding held prior to its listing of the stock. The price is actually the weighted average of the bidding prices. The new rules will allow the underwriting brokerage firm to decide the final offering price based on the weighted average, but also by taking account of conditions at the bidding, the risks involved for investors, and the supply-demand outlook.

The investment risks stem from the lag between the determination of the price and the time when the stock is put on the market, which currently takes about two weeks. The brokerage will be required to disclose the information on which the price is based and the assessments made. The period between the bidding and the listing of the stock will also be shortened by at least two days through streamlining of paperwork.

If the number of shares bid in the auction is smaller than 25 percent of the number scheduled to be offered to the public, the bidding will be regarded as invalid. This step is aimed at encouraging the brokerages to set the offering price at fair levels, Nagaoka said. If a brokerage sets the offering price with too much of a discount, investors are likely to pass up the next bidding conducted by the same brokerage to wait for the stock to be put on the market at a much lower price.

The rule changes, which were approved by the exchange's board of directors Tuesday, also include allowing changes in the number of shares put up for bidding to adjust the supply of shares according to the number of expected participants. But the current rule that at least 50 percent of the shares to go on the market must be put up for auction will remain unchanged, Nagaoka said.

Also among the regulatory changes are a wider spread of the period for companies to go public. Currently, the new public offering of stocks is concentrated in the period from November through March because most of the companies wishing to go public close their books in March. The exchange will change the way it conducts the screening of companies to make it possible for them to go public from the middle of August through April.

The new rules will also require the companies that intend to put their stocks on the market to boost the supply of corporate information to investors.

Nagaoka Urges Clear Economic Outlook, Prospects

OW1711122992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1033 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Minoru Nagaoka, president of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, called on the government Tuesday to present a clear economic outlook to help investors map out their investment plans.

Nagaoka told a news conference investors will be discouraged by the absence of clear economic prospects.

Nagaoka made the remark in connection with Tuesday's fall of the key Nikkei stock average on the Tokyo Stock Exchange below the 16,000 barrier again after a three-month interval.

He described the current economic condition as something like a mixture of various factors rather than a traditional cycle of ups and downs.

Wholesale Prices Decline for 14th Straight Month

OW1611110692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Japan's overall wholesale prices in October fell 1.2 percent from a year earlier for the 14th month in a row, and 0.6 percent from September for the second straight monthly fall, the Bank of Japan reported Monday.

The wholesale price index stood at 88.9 against 100 in the base year of 1985, the central bank said. The domestic wholesale price index, which the central bank closely watches as an inflationary indicator, stood at 95.3, down 0.8 percent from a year earlier and 0.4 percent from the previous month.

Export prices fell 2.8 percent from a year earlier, and 1.3 percent from the previous month, while import prices dropped 4.7 percent from a year earlier, and 1.8 percent from September.

A Bank of Japan official said the recent stability of prices remains unchanged and when considering the dull Japanese economy, the trend is likely to continue.

Expiration of seasonally higher electricity charges accounted for about 0.2 percentage point out of the 0.4 percent monthly decline of domestic wholesale prices, he said. Lower steel, electrical machinery, and petroleum and coal products also contributed in offsetting a rise in lumber and wood products, he said.

With regard to export prices based on contractual currencies, the index moved up on a monthly and yearly basis, on higher prices of transportation equipment triggered by the appreciation of the yen against major currencies. The stronger Japanese currency, however, contributed to lowering the figure on a yen-denominated basis.

The import price index in yen terms declined, also owing to the stronger yen, the central bank reported. In terms of contractual currencies, lower overseas commodity prices contributed to dropping the index in monthly terms, it said.

The dollar value averaged 121.08 yen during October. The yen gained 1.3 percent against the U.S. unit from September and 7.4 percent from the same month a year earlier.

Nagano Urges 'Every Means' To Spur Economy

OW1711125592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1115 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—The government should use "every means" to pull the economy out of its lingering slowdown, the head of one of Japan's four major business groups said Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference, Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), said the business community as a whole will continue to press the government for additional measures to rev up the domestic economy. Among such measures, Nagano cited a cut in income taxes, fiscal steps, and tax breaks for people looking to replace their homes with new ones.

Nagano zeroed in on stalled Diet debate over a supplementary budget for fiscal 1992 and urged lawmakers to quickly pass the extra budget before the parliament as it features much of the 10.7 trillion yen pump-priming package announced in late August.

"I can find no word other than deplorable. The business community, for our part, is disappointed with (politicians) leaving debate on the budget stalled," he said. Nagano also blamed the political chaos caused by a

scandal involving former ruling party power broker Shin Kanemaru for the 225-issue Nikkei stock average's dip below the crucial 16,000-point level at Tuesday's close.

"It's a sign of public distrust in politics. This is a dangerous phenomenon," he said.

As for a government move toward raising oil and road taxes, Nagano voiced strong opposition to any increase in taxes, noting that the oil industry is currently in a difficult position.

MITI Considers New Textile Industry Policy

OW1711122192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is considering drawing up a new policy on the nation's textile industry with a view to producing global technological innovation bases by the turn of the century, MITI officials said Tuesday.

Given the fact that Japan is already a textile-importing country, the ministry intends to foster districts capable of developing new materials and dyeing processes to become global technological bases, the officials said.

The ministry also plans to help vitalize less-competitive districts by promoting international specialization, they said.

A joint meeting of the Industrial Structure Council and Textile Industry Council, advisory bodies to the trade minister, will start preparations December 9 to draw up a final report by autumn next year, they said.

The ministry aims to have a new law enacted by the time the current law on provisional measures to improve the textile industry, including a production equipment register system, expires in June 1994, the officials said.

With the increase in imports of textile products and materials from Southeast Asia, the domestic industry has rapidly shrunk.

The ministry's plan follows a move to phase out the current textile trade framework, the multifiber arrangement, under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, they said.

LDP, Opposition Compile Diet Relocation Bill

OW1711122692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and three opposition parties have compiled a bill on relocating the Diet outside Tokyo and plan to jointly submit it during the current session, parliament officials said Tuesday.

The LDP, the Social Democratic Party, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party compiled the bill in a House of Representatives special committee discussing the relocation, the officials said.

The bill, based on an outline the four parties earlier agreed on in June, argues that moving the parliament is essential to reduce the concentration of political, financial, and other centers in Tokyo, they said.

The bill says the government has the responsibility to "positively consider" the relocation of central functions of the legislature, administration, and judiciary.

It also proposes setting up a panel within the prime minister's office to study the possible relocation and discuss its aim, timing, and standards for choosing the site, the officials said.

Concerning the site, the committee calls for consideration of safety against disasters, water supply, geography, and transportation, they said.

The panel said the venue should be a place where communication with the world and other parts of Japan can easily be carried out.

Chaired by the LDP's Keijiro Murata, the panel plans to submit the bill to the extraordinary Diet session this week if the stalled deliberations on supplementary budget are resumed.

Transportation White Paper Stresses Rail Issue

OW1711035092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0302 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, nov. 17 KYODO—The fiscal 1992 White Paper on Transportation called Tuesday for efforts to alleviate congestion on commuter trains in big cities through an increase in railway capacity and staggering of commuting hours.

The report, submitted to a regular cabinet meeting Tuesday by Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda, was published following its approval by the cabinet.

It proposed the construction of new railway lines, laying of extra tracks, and operation of longer trains to boost the railway transport capacity in urban and suburban areas.

It also urged efforts to promote the staggering of commuting hours to help reduce rush-hour congestion.

In addition, the report called for faster train services nationwide through the construction of more shinkansen bullet train railways and direct train services linking the shinkansen with conventional railways.

The White Paper said congestion in commuter trains in the metropolitan Tokyo area should be reduced to 180 percent of capacity and to 150 percent in other metropolitan areas.

In some crowded sections of commuter lines in the Tokyo region, rush-hour congestion rate reportedly reaches as high as 200 to 250 percent.

The report also suggested a need for higher train fares for the Kanto region's major private railways, which it said are saddled with a heavy capital investment burden.

North Korea

KCNA Views 'Cases of Murder' by U.S. Soldiers

SK1311122792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 13 (KCNA)—Cases of murder by soldiers of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea are reported non-stop.

Kenneth Michael brutally killed Yun Kum-i with a death tool in Posan-dong, Tongduchon city, Kyonggi Province, on October 28 when she refused to comply with his demand.

Pilant [as received] belonging to the U.S. forces raped a woman in Paju-up, Paju County, Kyonggi Province, in July. Earlier, in June, a U.S. soldier knocked down a woman to unconsciousness in the street after making sport of her.

169 criminals belonging to the U.S. forces have been detected by the Kyonggi provincial police bureau during the first nine months of this year, but none of them was detained by the South Korean side.

The cases of crimes committed by the U.S. forces in South Korea last year numbered 1,040.

Rape, assauts, murder and all other kinds of crimes are committed in an unbroken chain in South Korea where the U.S. imperialist aggressors are stationed. But the South Korean authorities who are fully dependent on their master cover them up or abandon "jurisdiction" and transfer the criminals to the U.S. forces.

'Tyranny' of U.S. Forces Denounced

SK1611004092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0020 GMT 14 Nov 92

[NODONG SINMUN 14 November commentary: "Unpardonable Tyranny of Occupation Forces"]

[Text] The barbarity of the U.S. imperialist aggressors scoundrels, the colonial occupation forces, has become more severe recently in South Korea.

Some time ago, a scoundrel of a soldier of the U.S. imperialist occupation forces in Tongduchon, Kyonggi Province, brutally murdered Yun Kum-hui, a South Korean woman. Following this, on 10 November, two scoundrels of the 8th U.S. Army aggressive forces committed an outrage on a taxi driver who demanded his taxi fare after taking them to their destination.

In addition, the scoundrels of the U.S. aggressor forces ignored and refused the strong demand of the people to turn over the criminal who murdered Yun Kum-hui to the South Korean side for a trial.

Such barbarity and cruel acts perpetrated in South Korea by scoundrels of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces show that the tyranny of the U.S. imperialist aggressors—the colonial occupation forces—has reached a dangerous limit and it should not be overlooked any longer.

The U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea, which has lasted for nearly a half century, caused various types of contemptuous treatment, disdain, misfortunes, and pains to the South Korean people.

From the first day they sneaked into South Korean territory, the scoundrels of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces, who are raised with the idea of despising other people and with the idea of hatred toward men and women, shot innocent people to death with rifles, stabbed them to death with bayonets, and crushed them to death with cars everywhere. They perpetrated bloody barbarities, including murder, burglary, arson, and destruction.

They shot to death a resident, claiming he was a pheasant, and shot to death a child playing in a field, claiming he was a duck. One who raped a woman without hesitation and, after this, cut her hair and drove her to the street after painting her whole body is none other than a U.S. imperialist aggressor.

Such barbarous and outrageous acts committed by the U.S. imperialist aggressors after occupying South Korea have been further encouraged by criminal maneuvers of the nation-selling flunkeyists who sold the nation and state to outside forces and attempted to survive by clinging to their sleeves.

The South Korean authorities this time also turned over the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces scoundrel, who murdered Yun Kum-hui, to the U.S. Army investigation organization, and announced that they will not request the transfer of the murderer for his arrest. They also turned over to the U.S. Army the criminals who assaulted a taxi driver.

The South Korean authorities are used to being submissive and are unable to say a single word to the aggressor forces scoundrels who committed rape, murder, and burglary after violently bursting into their homes. The South Korean authorities' actions have evoked unbearable national indignation.

Even after the North and the South adopted and effectuated the historic agreement of solving the peace and reunification issue between the North and the South through reconciliation, cooperation, and unity, there was no change whatsoever in the brigandish tyranny of the U.S. imperialists and in the nation-selling flunkeyist act of the South Korean ruling bunch.

The U.S. imperialists recently agreed with the South Korean authorities to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise—a test nuclear war for invasion of the North—next year. With the large-scale war exercise codenamed Eagle-92, they aggravated tension on the Korean peninsula to the extreme and destroyed North-South dialogue.

All this shows that as long as the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces are nesting in South Korea, and as long as there is in South Korea a nation-selling regime which fawns on and follows them, the South Korean people cannot be in peace and comfort even for a single day nor can the national aspiration of peace and reunification be achieved.

The prevailing situation urges the South Korean people not to tolerate domination, interference, murder, and plunder carried out by the U.S. imperialist aggressors. It calls on them to further strengthen their struggle to reject the nation-selling flunkeyist regime in South Korea.

Being enraged by the brutal acts of the U.S. imperialists, which have become more undisguised with each passing day, and by the contemptible national traitorous acts of the South Korean rulers, the South Korean people from various social strata more highly uphold the banner of anti-U.S. and antigovernment struggle.

The South Korean people will unite in the struggle to punish the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces scoundrels, who are repeatedly committing acts of tyranny as a colonial occupation force. They will sternly judge without fail the pro-U.S. reactionaries who are dreaming of regaining power by taking the opportunity of the forthcoming presidential election.

Daily Says Human Rights Abuse Claims 'Nonsense'

SK1711052492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 17 Nov 92

["'Human Rights' Offensive Is Part of Imperialists' Anti-Socialist Campaign"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 17 (KCNA)—The imperialist reactionaries' continued voluble talk about "violations of human rights" in socialist countries is aimed at increasing pressure upon socialist countries and encouraging anti-socialist elements within and at overthrowing socialist system and reviving capitalist system, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The imperialists' propaganda about "human rights abuses" in socialist countries is a nonsense, the article says, and goes on:

Their "human rights standard" is, in essence, the standard under the capitalist system whereby "the rich get richer and the poor poorer." It is nothing but a motto for prettifying the capitalist society in which the moneyed and privileged quarters enjoy freedom and luxuries while the toiling masses without money and power are denied all their rights.

The socialist system is a most advantageous social system providing the masses of people with an independent and creative life.

The imperialists' attack on socialism over the human rights issue is, in the final analysis, aimed at imbuing socialist society with "pluralism," that is, "liberalism" in ideology, "multi-party system" in politics and "diversification" in ownership.

"Defence of human rights" advocated by imperialism is a means of tarnishing the image of socialism so as to isolate socialist countries in the international community and disorganize them politically, ideologically and economically.

The imperialists are speaking ill of socialism, styling themselves "a champion of human rights," but they are the very one who violates human rights in actuality.

It is ridiculous, indeed, for the imperialists to talk about "human rights," they being the very one who commits harsh political terrorism against the innocent people who call for democratic rights and liberties and ruthlessly tramples upon their elementary vital rights to food, clothing and housing.

For all their advertisement about "democracy," "equality" and "human rights" the imperialists do not care a damn whether working people wander about in streets without a job, or they are ill-clad or starved to death. How can such capitalist society in which man's right to live is violated ruthlessly be called a "welfare society" ensuring human rights?

The more glibly they talk about "defence of human rights," the more glaringly their hypocritical and shameless nature will be brought to light.

PRC Friendship Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang

SK1611105292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 16 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries and the China-Korea Friendship Association led by Wang Xiaoxian, vice-president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, arrived here today.

The delegation was met at the airport by Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairperson of the Central Committee of the Korea-China Friendship Association and vice-chairperson of the Committee for the Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and the minister councillor of the Chinese Embassy here.

Chongnyon Vice-Chairman Arrives for Visit

SK1511105692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0814 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 15 (KCNA)—Paek Han-ki, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), arrived in Wonsan Saturday by the ship "Mar.gyongbong-92" to visit the socialist homeland.

Radio on Party Foundation, Antiparty Maneuvers

SK1611035092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1319 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Unattributed talk: "How the Party Builds Its Organizational and Ideological Foundation Is the Fundamental Factor That Determines the Fate of the Party"]

[Text] The treatise "On the Fundamental Questions of Revolutionary Party Building" which the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il wrote on the 47th anniversary of the party founding is a programmatic guideline which the parties, as leaders of the socialist cause, should firmly adhere to. The treatise gives comprehensive answers to the problems that need most urgent solutions at present when the task of defending and adhering to the socialist cause is put forward.

The socialist cause has collapsed [chwajol] in many countries of the world because the working class parties, which should lead the socialist cause to victory, failed to carry out party building and activities properly. Because the party's leadership is the life line of the socialist cause, it is very appropriate for us to investigate the cause of the collapse of socialism in many countries and its relation to the party.

Although socialism collapsed and is experiencing trials in some countries, it is still the objective of the struggle of revolutionary parties and the object of the aspirations of progressive mankind. As it has already been reported, hundreds of political parties have signed the Pyongyang Declaration on defending and advancing the socialist cause.

Today, when the revolutionary parties have put forth the Pyongyang Declaration as their common struggle program and are waging a new struggle for socialism, it is of great significance to correctly analyze the historical lesson of party building. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, with insight into this demand of the times, elucidated the fundamental questions of revolutionary party building. This is another of his contributions to the development of the theories on carrying out the socialist cause and working class party building.

The important cause of the abnormal developments which led to the collapse of socialist ruling parties in many countries of the world was that these parties failed to firmly solidify their organizational and ideological foundation. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: The most important question in working class party building and activities is to firmly solidify the party's organizational and ideological foundation. The working class party is a political organization based on the ideology of the working class. The way in which it builds its organizational and ideological foundation is a fundamental factor that determines its fate.

The fact that the working class party firmly solidifies its organizational and ideological foundation means that it strengthens the ideological and volitional unity and revolutionary cohesion of the party ranks based on the revolutionary ideology of the working class and establishes an orderly work system and revolutionary discipline capable of firmly ensuring the party's leadership.

The way in which the working class party builds its organizational and ideological foundation is the fundamental factor that determines its fate. In other words, the most important factor determining the fate of the working class party lies in the degree of the firmness of the party's organizational and ideological foundation. The firmness of the organizational and ideological foundation of the working class party is the fundamental factor that determines its fate because this is connected with the natural demand of the working class party. The working class party is a political organization which is organized based on the working class ideology. The party, which came into being with a mission of leading the work of pioneering the fate of the popular masses including the working class, should be dominated by only one ideology, and it should achieve organizational unity based on this ideology. The party which fails to achieve its organizational unity based on one ideology is a perilous existence like a house built on sand which is ultimately doomed to collapse.

The working class party should build its organizational and ideological foundation firmly so that it may carry out its leadership role of leading the popular masses and maintain its existence. This is why the working class parties firmly put forth building their organizational and ideological foundation as their important task right from the preparatory stage of their founding.

In the treatise, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il proclaimed that the working class party should firmly build its organizational and ideological foundation throughout the entire course of party building. By this he put forth an original ideology that the work of solidifying the party's organizational and ideological foundation should continue consistently and without ceasing. Because this ideology has been proclaimed, the working class parties have come to have a guideline as to the standpoint from which they should push ahead with the work of solidifying their organizational and ideological foundation.

The solidity of the organizational and ideological foundation of the working class party is the fundamental factor that determines its fate, because it is connected with the situation in which whenever the issue of the inheritance of the party's leadership is raised, the

maneuvers of the class enemies [kyegupchok wonsudul], machinators [ummogadul], and schemers [yasimgadul] within and without are becoming more conspicuous.

The cause of the working class party is the historical cause which is carried on generation after generation. In the course of completing this cause, the issue of inheriting the leadership comes forth inevitably. The party's cause is also expedited through fierce class struggle. All sorts of class enemies, machinators, and schemers who are mad after power are maneuvering to weaken the party's organizational and ideological foundation and are attempting to take advantage of a chance when the foundation weakens. These antiparty maneuvers are becoming more conspicuous when the issue of the inheritance of the party's leadership is raised.

The ruling socialist parties should firmly solidify their organizational and ideological foundation to cope with this challenge of all sorts of enemies so that they can check any maneuvers of the imperialists and class enemies and adhere to the party's revolutionary characteristics. As noted by the dear comrade leader, if the revolutionary principles are thoroughly adhered to within the party and if the party is firmly built organizationally and ideologically, the party's leadership is not handed over to the traitors of the revolution.

The work of firmly solidifying the party's organizational and ideological foundation at a time when the issue of the inheritance of leadership is raised is essentially the work of uniting the entire party membership around the outstanding leader [tagwolhan chidoja] who has inherited the leader's cause [suryongui wiop] and establishing an orderly system and discipline with which to realize the working class leadership for the revolution and construction. The party, which has built the ranks of the cadres—which form the core of the party's organizational and ideological foundation—into a force endlessly loyal to the leader and his successor and has firmly solidified its ideological and volitional unity and cohesion by indoctrinating all the people, can never be deprived by the traitors of its right to leadership. Even if the leadership is handed over to the traitors, they will not be able to smoothly impose their counterrevolutionary line on the party organizations and party members.

The theory by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il—in which he said that the way the party solidifies its organizational and ideological foundation is the fundamental factor that determines the fate of the party—is based on his sagacious analysis of the collapse of some ruling socialist parties. The parties which have collapsed failed to put forward firmly solidifying the party's organizational and ideological foundation as a foremost task and as a fundamental problem in party building and activities. On top of that, they were engulfed in the bourgeois liberalization fever and the party's organizational and ideological foundation was weakened. Taking advantage of this chance, the traitors of the revolution did not hesitate to impose the counterrevolutionary line. In particular, they failed to build well the cadre ranks—the core of the party's organizational and ideological foundation. Ideological discoloration occurred among them, preventing them from distinguishing the revolution from the counterrevolution. They even shared views with the traitors ideologically, blindly following the traitors, and flattered them or submitted to them, thinking of their own personal security first.

Of course, the resolute communists did not abandon the party-oriented conscience but struggled to defend the party and socialism. However, their struggle was unable to overcome the adverse counterrevolutionary tide which was made by the discoloration of the party for a long time. The reality shows that if the party fails to put forward the work of firmly solidifying the organizational and ideological foundation as the most important problem in party building and activities, it cannot even maintain its existence, let alone lead the revolution.

Since the time when it prepared its founding, our party has put forward the work of firmly solidifying the party's organizational and ideological foundation as the most important work and realized it, thereby brilliantly carrying out its mission and role as the general staff of the Korean revolution, and thus the entire party membership has been firmly united based on the chuche idea.

Today, our country is excellently building socialism and crushing the imperialists' antisocialist maneuvers, and our party has been strengthened to be an ever-victorious party, because our party put forward the work of firmly solidifying its organizational and ideological foundation as a fundamental problem in party building and activities and realized it.

Based on his analysis of our party's historical experience and the cause of the collapse of some ruling socialist parties, the dear comrade leader greatly encouraged the revolutionary parties and revolutionary people by proclaiming the idea that the work of solidifying the organizational and ideological foundation is a fundamental problem in party building and activities. This is one of the immortal achievements the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has made for the times.

Our functionaries and working people should deeply study the treatise of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, grasp its essence properly, cherish deep in their hearts the pride in enjoying the leadership of the great party, and be endlessly loyal to the party's leadership.

Economic Sectors Report 'Great Upsurge'

SK1711105292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 17 (KCNA)—A great upsurge in production has been reported from different domains of the national economy.

Power stations under the State Commission of Electric Power Industry increased power production by 4 percent in the first ten days of this month above the same period last month.

Workers of the Chollima Steel Complex, Steel Works No. 8 and other metal industrial establishments have largely boosted steel production in the recent twenty days as against the preceding same period and sent it to socialist economic construction sites.

An upswing in production has been reported from the mining industry, too. Taking the Ministry of Mining Industry as a whole, the output of phosphate headings had jumped over two times and that of phosphate fertilizer 1.1 times as of November 10 above the figures in the same period of last month and the Pukchang District Coal Mining Complex and the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine increased coal production respectively at 113 percent and 120 percent.

Meanwhile, the general bureau of Western Railways, the West Sea Marine Transport Office, etc. have expanded achievements in transport by organizing and controlling transport under a detailed plan.

South Korea

Committee Delivers Protest on GI 'Atrocity'

SK1711093592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0923 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—The joint ad hoc committee on the slaying of Ms. Yun Kum-i by American soldier Tuesday demanded that the prosecution place the culprit, Pfc. Kenneth Markle, under arrest while questioning him and that the United States make an apology over her death.

The committee, headed by Kim Chan-kuk, former vice president of Yonsei University, made the demand during a memorial service it held for the deceased at the Christian Hall at Chongno 5-ka in downtown Seoul.

About 600 members of the committee attended the service that began at 2 p.m.

"The prosecution should abandon a lukewarm attitude and instead thoroughly dig into the atrocity by the American soldier, while the U.S. forces and the American Embassy should apologize to the Korean people over the incident," the committee said in a statement.

After the service, the participating members marched to the American Embassy to deliver a protest message.

Officials To Discuss Approaches to Clinton Team

SK1711063792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0607 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—Government officials will meet Wednesday to decide who in U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton's transition team they want to meet with, when, and what topics to discuss.

Assistant Foreign Minister Ho Sung, head of the External Relations Publicity Committee, will preside over the meeting with officials from the economic ministries and relevant organizations to discuss government- and business-level contacts with the Clinton team.

Foreign Ministry officials say the meeting will cover trade issues and how to meet with team members.

A report will be sent to a meeting of Korean consuls-general for the American region in Washington, D.C., Nov. 20.

Yeltsin's Visit Itinerary Reported

SK1711024592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0159 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrives here Wednesday for a three-day visit to discuss economic cooperation, North Korean nuclear development and other issues with President No Tae-u.

Yeltsin is expected to try and clarify the shootdown of a Korean Air Lines (KAL) jetliner by a Soviet fighter in 1983.

He will sign a protocol on basic relations between the two countries while deputy premiers, foreign, finance, trade and defense ministers of the two countries hold separate conferences and sign agreements on double taxation prevention, customs cooperation and cultural exchanges.

The two countries will also sign a protocol on military cooperation, similar to the one between North Korea and Russia.

Arriving aboard a special plane at Kimpo International Airport, Yeltsin will be welcomed by Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong and head for the national cemetery in Tongjak-tong, southern Seoul, to pay his respects for those who died for the nation.

Yeltsin will begin his visit with a summit meeting with No Thursday morning. He then will attend luncheon to be given by four large economic organizations before delivering his speech to the National Assembly on the development of relations between the two countries.

The Russian leader will attend an official banquet given by President No at Chongwadae Thursday evening.

On Friday morning, Yeltsin will have breakfast with Kim Yong-sam, presidential candidate of the majority Democratic Liberal Party. He will later visit the Korean Folk Village and Samsung Electronics Co.

Yeltsin is scheduled to leave for home Friday afternoon after giving a joint press conference with President No.

Yeltsin will be the first Russian leader to visit South Korea, although Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev held a summit with No on Cheju Island in April 1991.

Envoy Says Yeltsin To Clarify Asian Policy

SK1611092292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0828 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin is expected to clarify his Asian policy for peace, stability and cooperation during his South Korean visit, his first trip to an Asian nation since taking office in June last year, Hong Sun-yong, South Korean ambassador to Moscow, said Monday.

The military protocol expected during Yeltsin's visit calls for exchange of military personnel and observation teams rather than specific cooperation measures, he said.

Yeltsin will express regrets over the 1983 downing of a Korean Air Lines jetliner that killed 269 people in his speech to the National Assembly, and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is likely to meet with members of the victims families, he said.

Russia, like any other country, seeks to expand its diplomatic arena and cannot be expected to cut off ties with North Korea.

"The time when Seoul-Moscow relations were hindered by North Korea is long, long past. The stage now is to have Russia lead North Korea toward peace, reconciliation and cooperation," Hong said.

Here to prepare for Yeltsin's visit Nov. 18-20, Hong said that the two countries need to take a new look at their relations.

"Russia is an Asian nation, and it cannot overlook South Korea in securing its role in this region," he told a news conference.

"South Korea, on the other hand, is a divided nation. Russia remains a superpower equipped with a nuclear capability. Cooperation is more than necessary," the ambassador said.

In a way, Russia is more interested in deterring North Korean nuclear development than the United States because it is next to the Korean peninsula, Hong said.

"It is his first trip to Asia, and we expect him to clarify his policy toward this region... It would include reiteration of Moscow's stance on inter-Korean nuclear issue," he said.

Hong, calling Seoul-Moscow ties "a relationship of lasting importance," emphasized the need to look beyond the current domestic crisis in Russia, beyond the difficulties from Moscow's inability to promptly repay the debt and accrued interest on a 1.5 billion-U.S.-dollar loan.

Russia has said it will turn over more materials related to the 1983 KAL downing but the timing and the exact contents will have to be determined by its own investigation committee and after consultations with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Hong said.

Talks are under way to build a memorial to the victims, but it will be built by civilian rather than government organizations, according to Hong.

Yeltsin Visit To Boost Economic Cooperation

SK1611031492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0203 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia will complete systematic backup for economic cooperation during President Boris Yeltsin's visit here this week, Korean officials said Monday.

The government would increase its efforts to get Korean companies to take part in the conversion of Russia's defense industry to consumer items and in natural resources development, the officials said.

Seoul and Moscow normalized diplomatic ties in 1990, just before the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

They are to launch a joint committee for economic cooperation, headed by a deputy premier on each side, during Yeltsin's visit Wednesday through Friday.

The committee will discuss government-level measures to expand bilateral economic cooperation at annual meetings alternating between Seoul and Moscow.

The government will push various resources development projects with Russia, centering on gas development in Yakutzk, and will seek ways of joining forces in the field of scientific technologies, fisheries and aviation.

The countries have already concluded agreements on trade, investment guarantee, aviation and fisheries and will sign pacts on double taxation avoidance and customs during Yeltsin's Seoul trip.

Korea has decided to resume delivery of loans possibly from next month as payment of interest was settled last week, adding momentum to bilateral ties.

Firms such as Daewoo Corp. and Lucky-Goldstar International Corp. are likely to propose economic cooperation to Russian enterprisers accompanying Yeltsin.

Conglomerates including Samsung and Hyundai are learned to be taking a wait-and-see attitude on boosting economic ties with Russia due to the political instability and worsening economic conditions there.

Daewoo, the most active business group in pursuing economic cooperation with Russia, will start realistic consultations on the development of a gas field in Yakutsk and establishment of electronics and automobile factories with businessmen during Yeltsin's visit.

A Daewoo official said that there would be more discussion of joint ventures in electronics and automobiles given that a large number of Yeltsin's followers have interests in the fields.

Lucky-Goldstar International is to tap the possibility of participating in the conversion of military industry and in the joint development of natural resources such as non-ferrous metal and coal.

Lucky-Goldstar plans to seek joint ventures in the information and communications fields and its sister company, Goldstar Co., will negotiate the construction of color television and video cassette recorder factories in Russia.

In particular, Goldstar is trying to advance into the distribution market through a franchise before setting up locally-incorporated sales outlets.

The Samsung group plans to contact Russian officials about the transfer of advanced technologies and ways to commercialize them.

The Sunkyong group is interested in resources development in the domain of energy and chemicals.

Chong Se-yong, chairman of the Hyundai group, is scheduled to meet with Russian businessmen to exchange views on economic cooperation, but Hyundai isn't expecting much as none of them are from its fields of interest.

Yeltsin Visit To Help Define Bilateral Relations

SK1711033692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0259 GMT 17 Nov 92

[By Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—When Russian President Boris Yeltsin makes the first historic step onto South Korean soil Wednesday, he will find that Seoul and Moscow need to adjust their relationship.

The Soviet Union is gone, and the new Russia stands closer to Asia than ever before. South Korea has forged ties with China to open new diplomacy with the four surrounding powers.

The ideological demarcation line is growing fuzzy as economic alliance is growing closer. Consequently, Moscow is looking anew to its Asian neighbors, including South Korea, while Seoul tries to assess the new Russia's role in inter-Korean and Northeast Asian issues.

Yeltsin's visit Wednesday to Friday is his first to Asia since he took office in June last year. In an unusual practice, Yeltsin and President No Tae-u will personally sign a basic treaty on bilateral relations.

"Russia suggested the presidents themselves sign the treaty as a symbol of closing the unfortunate past and opening new friendly ties," Hong Sun-yong, South Korean ambassador to Moscow, says.

In contrast to the ritzy celebrations when the two countries normalized relations in September 1990, what followed fell short of expectations, Seoul officials admit.

"Moscow has rendered significant support since diplomatic normalization. It was behind us when we sought U.N. membership, and it supports our position regarding the inter-Korean nuclear issue," one Foreign Ministry official says.

"We have to evaluate highly the facts that Russia handed over documents related to the 1983 Korean airliner downing even if the contents were insufficient to our standards," the official says. "But both Seoul and Moscow feel that the past two years of friendship could have been better."

Seoul is currently focused on its new relations with Beijing, which it hopes will exert even greater influence on North Korea. This is one of the reasons, officials here admit, that South Korea-Russia relations were pushed into the background.

Bilateral ties were based heavily on economic cooperation, and will remain so for some time to come until Russia overcomes its transition period.

But the time now is to tap into political relationships with Russia. For one thing, Russia is still a military superpower with a mighty deployment in the Far East even though it is much weaker than the Soviet Union.

Yeltsin said Monday that Russia will not cut off ties with Pyongyang, a clear indication that it will keep its equidistant diplomacy with South and North Korea.

Seoul, while seeking common ground economically with Russia, needs to develop political common ground so that Moscow uses its influence over North Korea with South Korea's position in mind regarding inter-Korean issues.

This, together with China relations, would elevate South Korea's position among the four surrounding powers.

Russia's role in Asia will increase in the days to come, and its security and political role in the region will also increase from its new affinity to Asian countries, officials here say.

Yeltsin's Asian diplomacy has cut the starting tape with his South Korean trip. He is expected in China next month and Japan sometime soon.

South Korea will need to find room in Russia's new advance during Yeltsin's visit.

Memorandum of Understanding With Russia Sought

SK1611093392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0836 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea will seek a memorandum of understanding with Russia on

cooperation to convert its military industry to production of consumer goods, a ministry official said Monday.

No Chang-u, director-general of the Trade and Industry Ministry's Trade Cooperation Bureau, said that the two countries would establish a bilateral information center on industrial cooperation with offices in Seoul and Moscow.

A research center or consulting center to help the military industry become consumer-oriented would be set up in the Korea Academy of Industrial Technology and have representative offices in St. Petersburg and Moscow, No said.

The government will push ahead with joint projects to draw up guidelines on administrative procedures, dangerous factors, ways of making deals and management methods in connection with Korean investment in Russia and restructuring the military industry.

No visited Russia to conduct a feasibility study on the restructuring with a team of government and business officials Nov. 4-10. They found sophisticated know-how in space technology, machinery, electronics and aviation despite the problems of its military industry, he said.

The team visited 37 factories and research institutes related to the arms industry that were off limits until recently.

Easily convertible sectors from military to light industry, optics, aviation and shipbuilding were promising areas for inter- dependent cooperation, No said.

Korean firms were advised to seek technology transfers and joint development and invite Russian scientists and technicians in the initial stage of the conversion, rather than investing directly.

Economic, Trade Exchanges With Russia Stressed

SK1711022592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Nov 92 p 9

[Text] Timed with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit here from tomorrow through Friday, the government will push ahead with the promotion of economic and trade exchanges with Russia despite its various problems including a shortage of convertible currencies.

In particular, the government will actively take part in the commercialization of the Russian defense industry in order to help boost its backward economy.

As a first step, the government plans to set up a Korean-Russian information center to speed up participation in commercializing Russia's defense industry by the private sector.

A memorandum of understanding will be exchanged with Russia before the end of this year to carry out the project involving such prospective areas as aerospace, optical industry, telecommunications, electronics and new materials.

In the meantime, the government and private sector will work together to map out a wide range of steps to maximize interests in taking part in the conversion project, the Trade-Industry Ministry announced yesterday.

These steps were decided following the visit of a 30-member delegation to Russia Nov. 4-13 to conduct a feasibility study of the project.

Led by No Chang-u, director general of the ministry's Trade Cooperation Bureau, the fact-finding mission visited 37 defense plants and research institutes in Moscow, St. Petersburg and other Russian cities.

Among the delegation were 17 representatives from 15 enterprises including Samsung Aerospace, Hyundai Precision Industries and Mando Machinery.

In a meeting with reporters at the ministry, No said that it was unprecedented for the Russian government to show its defense plants and research institute to outsiders.

He said that the Russian defense industry has high tech and advanced know-how despite its experiencing various difficulties at present.

He, especially, said that Russia still maintains a substantial lead in the fields of aerospace, machinery, electronics, telecommunications and new materials in its defense industry.

He disclosed that Russia is eager to utilize Korea's manufacturing technology for the commercialization of its defense industry.

The Russian government has been carrying out a five-year program to convert the defense industry into the consumer-oriented one since last year.

The ministry plans to dispatch a number of private-level missions to Russia to substantiate the participation in commercializing its defense industry.

However, the ministry will control excessive corporate investment in the privatization of the Russian defense industry in consideration of the country's poor credit.

Domestic enterprises are interested in taking part in the commercialization of 21 sectors of the Russian defense industry even though Moscow wants them to participate in 51 areas.

They include multi-purpose fighters, light-weight aircraft for sports and commercial use, gas turbine engines for passenger craft, composite materials, equipment for encryption, software for computing equipment and system solutions on automation of technological process control.

Former Russian Legation Land on Talks Agenda

SK1611095592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0500 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia will tackle their property dispute, involving

more than 6,000-pyong (198,000 square meters) of land in Seoul used by the former Russian legation, while Russian President Boris Yeltsin is here Nov. 18-20, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

Moscow has insisted through five rounds of negotiations that it bought the property in Chong-tong in 1886, supporting its claim with deeds showing the property belongs to Russia, the officials said.

But Seoul says the deeds were never officially documented by the South Korean side and are only a record exchanged between the Russian Embassy and the Russian Foreign Ministry, they said.

There is no record in Korea that Moscow bought the property or that Korea gave it the real estate for its use, they said.

Russia occupied the land, using it for its legation and the ambassador's residence, until October 1949, when Korea declared it national property.

Moscow has insisted on return of the land since diplomatic normalization with Seoul in October 1990.

Russia Lacks Evidence on Land Claim

SK1711035892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] No progress has been made in the negotiations between South Korea and Russia on the ownership of a former Russian legation site in central Seoul due to lack of concrete documents regarding the property, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The land about 6,000 pyong (198,000 square meters) valued at hundreds of billion won is located in Chong-tong.

An official said that he can hardly admit Russian documents as evidence justifying Russian claims that it had bought the site in 1886.

He said that he rebutted four key contentions lodged by the Russians at the fifth round of working-level talks on Nov. 13.

The documents submitted by the Russian side as evidence of its ownership are "internal communications" between the Russian legation, the Foreign Ministry and other government agencies of Russia, he said.

It is probable that Russia rented the land, he said, quoting a Korean document stating that an imperial approval is necessary for the purchase of a house which was owned by a Japanese person.

The quotation is a translation of a clause in Chinese characters sent by then acting Foreign Minister Min Chong-muk to then Russian Minister Speyer at the Russian legation in Seoul in 1898.

"Whether or not the ownership will be handed over to Russia will be decided on after sufficient legal and factual evidence is found," the official said.

He said that the Russian side lodged no complaints when the Korean Government expelled a Russian couple managing legation in October, 1949.

As for the Russian claim that the land is recorded in a land registry, the Foreign Ministry official said that the document is material for tax collection, not determining the ownership of the land. "Ownership can be established through the legal land ownership registry," he said.

Premier Says Kim Yong-sam Not To Meet Yeltsin

SK1611093192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0817 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong said Monday the government has not arranged for Boris Yeltsin to meet Kim Yong-sam, presidential candidate of the Democratic Liberal Party, when the Russian president visits South Korea Nov. 18-20.

Hyon made the comment after a group of five lawmakers from the Democratic Party [DP] visited him earlier Monday morning to demand that the meeting be canceled.

However, Hong Sun-yong, South Korean ambassador to Russia, said here Monday that an unofficial meeting between Kim and Yeltsin had been arranged in September. It would be a breakfast meeting on Friday, Hong added. He is here to prepare for Yeltsin's visit.

The prime minister told his visitors that he had instructed the Foreign Ministry to find out whether the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, Kim Tae-chung, could meet with Yeltsin. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere, Pak Hui-tae, spokesman of the Democratic Liberal Party, said the meeting with Kim Yong-sam was requested by the Russian side.

Pak noted that the Democratic Party had publicly displayed a letter from then-U.S. presidential candidate Bill Clinton to Kim Tae-chung.

"I don't know why these people cannot arrange a meeting between Kim Tae-chung and Yeltsin," Pak said sarcastically. [passage omitted]

Kim Yong-sam on Yeltsin Visit, U.S. Relations

SK1711113592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1049 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, head of the Democratic Liberal Party, said Tuesday "it is nonsensical that there exists a private organization in the military."

In an exclusive interview with the YONHAP News Agency, Kim said, "The armed forces, being part of the people, should now be more loyal to the people."

Turning to the upcoming election, Kim who runs in the election on his party ticket said he knows that the election should not be a scene of regional squabbling.

"Other candidates, too, should pay due attention to this issue and I am willing to discuss with them ways to forestall regionalism in the election," he said.

Kim brushed aside as "ridiculous" the Democratic Party demand for cancellation of his planned meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin during his visit to Seoul.

The Democratic Party complained that "the government had deliberately arranged Kim Yong-sam's meeting with Yeltsin in a bid to build up his image with the coming election in mind."

Kim said his schedule for meeting with Yeltsin is at Russia's request and the government has nothing to do with it.

On Korea-U.S. relations under a Clinton administration, Kim said there would be no basic change in the two countries' relations.

However, he said, the U.S.'s trade pressure against Korea may be stepped up and in the security area, Korea may be asked to shoulder an increased share in the cost of the U.S. military presence in Korea.

"Under the circumstances, we can deal with the U.S. from a firm position only when a political party that commands a majority seats in the National Assembly seizes power," Kim said.

Russia Pays Interest on Loan to Former USSR

SK1711015792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0050 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—Russia has submitted legal papers guaranteeing the economic cooperation loan South Korea extended to the Soviet Union and paid accumulated interest on other loans, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday.

Victor Koptevski, chief of the department of Asian countries of the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, arrived in Seoul on Monday and presented the legal documents to the Commercial Bank of Korea and the Export-Import Bank of Korea, the two banks that had provided the economic cooperation loan for the government, Ministry officials said.

The documents contain provisions that Russia is to take over all legal obligation and liabilities for the loan in place of the former Soviet Union, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Russia has told the New York branch of the Export-Import Bank of Korea that it will pay 12.6 million U.S. dollars as part accumulated interest on cash loans South Korea extended for the purchase of consumer goods.

Russia also plans to pay 36.8 million dollars of interest on the cash loans in aluminum ingots. After the office of supply signs a contract for the deal in December, Korea is expected to provide the remainder of the tied loans, amounting to 330 million dollars, promised to the Soviet Union in 1991, the officials said.

In addition, Russia has agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding for cooperation for the commercialization of Russia's military industry, the officials said.

Russian Economic Leaders Meet Business Group Head

SK1711063192 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Nov 92 p 8

[Text] Choe Chong-hwan, chairman of the Korea-CIS Economic Association, met yesterday with Nikolay G. Malyshev, adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and Stanislav A. Smirnov, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russia Federation, at Choe's office.

Malyshev is the leader of the 140-member Russian business mission to Korea accompanying Yeltsin.

They exchanged views on matters of mutual concern, including the opening of a Korean-Russian economic seminar slated for Thursday.

ROK, CIS Firms To Build Industrial Complex

SK1711071192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—Russian and Korean businessmen agreed Tuesday to build an industrial complex and ask their governments for tax and cash support in a meeting on bilateral economic cooperation.

Chang Chi-hyok, chairman of Kohap Ltd., V. S. Kuznetsov, governor of the Maritime Province of Siberia, and some 150 businessmen and economic officials from both countries attended the meeting of the Korea-Russia Far East Association.

The two sides agreed to build the Korea-Russia industrial complex in the near future and to ask each government for generous tax, financial and foreign exchange support for the construction.

The Russians offered to prepare the infrastructure, including ports, power and water supplies, and roads.

It was decided to form a subcommittee and an information center to compile data on investment market, product cost, and technology before next year's meeting.

The second meeting will be in the Russian Far East next year.

Foreign Minister on Unification, U.S. Presence

AU1611165592 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 16 Nov 92 p 3

[Andreas Unterberger report: "South Korea Slows Down Reunification; Foreign Minister Yi in Favor of 'Slow' Way"]

[Text] Vienna—South Korea is drawing conclusions from the problems created by Germany's unification. Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok made this clear in an interview for DIE PRESSE at the end of his official visit to Austria. "The German experiences have shown that unification results in enormous expenses. This has dampened the optimism of many people in our country regarding Korean unification."

Then Yi talked of the search for a road to Korean unity that reduces these expenses. "Therefore, my government told North Korea that we do not want to isolate it, but desire a slow development toward more openness and an improvement of the living conditions. We do not want abrupt changes in North Korea that destabilize and create tensions."

Nevertheless, the top diplomat, who has headed the Foreign Ministry for two years, hopes that "unification will be achieved before the end of the century." The improvement of the international situation and the normalization of relations between the Russians and the Chinese have created more favorable conditions for it.

Yi is very much concerned about the North Korean nuclear program. "If North Korea wants to prove to the world that it is not developing military nuclear capabilities, as it always says, it should open its plants to the bilateral controls to which it agreed with us. The refusal to do this shows that the North is still ambivalent regarding its nuclear policy."

Since North Korea is blocking the inspections that were agreed upon last December, next year South Korea will resume the joint maneuvers with the United States ("Team Spirit") which were discontinued this year. However, Yi stressed the "very defensive and limited" character of the exercises, to which North Korean observers are also invited. But the North has always declined these invitations in the past, he said.

For South Korea, the arranged bilateral nuclear inspections are at any rate indispensable, because the inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, which were recently introduced, are insufficient, he said. "The suspicions that the North has nuclear ambitions have not been eliminated by them."

North Korea is very much afraid of opening up its society, as would be required at any rate by the agreements that were made between the North and the South last December, Yi continued. "The country is very isolated. The economy is in a bad crisis. Therefore, the North seems to be more interested in securing the system than in cooperation."

Seoul is very much interested in a continued U.S. military presence in South Korea and Asia. Yi is banking on promises made by President-elect Clinton that nothing will be changed. "They are a stabilizing power in the transition to a period after the cold war, of which there are still remains in our country." However, the minister also cautiously indicated that this interest is not only connected with the problem of North Korea.

"In Asia there are many concerns that the military role of Japan and China will increase in the future. But I do not believe that it constitutes an immediate danger to our security." Nevertheless, he stressed: "On the whole, the U.S. presence is necessary for stability and security in Korea."

In the East Asian exporting country there are also concerns about the negative effects on the world economy "if the EC single market were to become more protectionist and discriminatory." But Yi referred to EC promises that this will not be the case and that the single market will strengthen the multilateral free trade system.

The guest found positive words for Austria. Yi talked of an important role for Vienna in international and European diplomacy, was pleased with the increase in bilateral trade, referred to the cultural importance of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Austria, and praised the capital that the Korean corporation Bosco made out of its cooperation with Voest. "Even small countries can play an important role in international relations."

Yi Chong-chan Inaugurates New Korea Party

SK1711065092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—Yi Chong-chan's band of political rebels officially formed themselves into a political party on Tuesday, taking the name the New Korea Party [NKP] and electing Yi as their leader.

Yun Kil-chung, chairman of the NKP preparatory committee, joined them and was made head of an elder statesmen's council.

They adopted a party constitution and a platform that calls for collective leadership, parliamentary rule and multimember constituencies.

The newly-born party pledged to create a welfare society through reforms and achieve peaceful unification of Korea.

Absent were Reps. Yi Cha-hon, Kim Yong-hwan, Pak Chol-on, Yu Su-ho and Han Yong-su, who had reached an agreement with the United People's Party [UPP] that the two groups would merge. They met with UPP leader Chong Chu-yong early in the morning to discuss joining his party.

The New Korea Party's members are mostly deserters from the Democratic Liberal Party who want to field their own candidate in the Dec. 18 presidential election.

Announces Presidential Candidacy

SK1711104492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0920 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—Rep. Yi Chong-chan of the New Korea Party Tuesday announced his candidacy in the upcoming presidential election, saying "I will win the election by all means so as to embody the miracle of new politics on this land."

Upon he was nominated as the party presidential candidate at the party's inaugural convention at the Chamsil Gymnasium, Yi said in an acceptance speech that he would realize a "horizontal power transition" instead of a "vertical power switch" in which a power is handed from a ruling party leader down to another ruling party leader.

Stressing that symptoms heralding the age of changes and reforms pop up everywhere around the world, Rep. Yi said he would not hesitate to cooperate with whatever forces to win the election.

At the inaugural meeting, the New Korea party selected Yi Chong-chan as representative supreme member and Yun Kil-chung as chairman of the party elder members committee.

Daily Publishes Election Poll Results

SK1711045092 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 16 Nov 92 pp 1-2

[All figures are as published]

[Text] Our people believe that the upcoming presidential election will be held more fairly than previous ones. However, they still believe that the election must be held more fairly. They also believe that the government and the Central Election Management Committee must strongly clamp down on election law violations.

This was shown in a telephone poll that CHOSON ILBO and Korea Gallup conducted on 12 November. This survey polled 660 eligible male and female voters who are over 20 years old.

As to the question "Is the current presidential election being held fairly?", 54.9 percent said, "It is being held unfairly," and 30.8 percent said, "It is being held fairly." And 14.3 percent said, "It is hard to say one way or the other."

As to how fairly the presidential election will be held compared to previous presidential elections, 61.6 percent said, "It will be held more fairly." And, 18.8 percent said, "It will be held as fairly as the previous presidential elections," 10.7 percent said, "It will be held less fairly," and 8.9 percent said, "I do not know."

As to how well the government and the Central Election Management Committee are clamping down on election law violations, 25.2 percent said, "They are doing so according to the law," and 61.6 percent said, "They are not." And, 13.2 percent said, "It is hard to say one way or the other."

Also, 86.6 percent said, "The government and the Central Election Management Committee must more strongly clamp down on election law violations."

When asked what is the most urgent task for now, 36.5 percent cited "economic stability and development." Meantime, in the surveys conducted in November 1991 and in July 1992, 51.7 percent and 43.4 percent, respectively, cited "price stability."

Also, 82.6 percent said that they would vote in the presidential election scheduled for 18 December; 8.0 percent said that they most likely would vote; 3.9 percent said that they most likely would not vote; 2.8 percent said that they would not vote; and 2.7 percent said that they would decide whether to vote or not on and around election day.

When asked which candidate they would vote for, 28.7 percent cited Kim Yong-sam; 19.2 percent, Kim Tae-chung; 7.7 percent, Chong Chu-yong; and 5.9 percent, Pak Chan-chong. Meantime, 5.4 percent cited Yi Chong-chan, who will likely run for the presidency, and 32.3 percent said that they support no candidate or that they do not know.

When this is compared to the July survey, support for Kim Yong-sam and support for Kim Tae-chung have remained almost unchanged, and support for Chong Chu-yong and support for Pak Chang-chong have dropped. Meanwhile, in the July survey, 29.6 percent supported Kim Yong-sam, 19.3 percent supported Kim Tae-chung, 13.4 percent supported Pak Chan-chong, and 11.3 percent supported Chong Chu-yong.

When asked which party they support, 29.9 percent cited the Democratic Liberal Party; 23.7 percent, the Democratic Party; 8.7 percent, the United People's Party; 2.7 percent, the New Political Reform Party; 2.1 percent, the New Korea Party; and 0.8 percent, other parties. And, 8.4 percent said that they support no party, and 23.7 percent said that they do not know.

This survey polled 325 men and 335 women. 202 of them were in their twenties; 176, in their thirties's; 114, in their forties's; and 158, over 50. 145 of them were primary school graduates or had no formal education; 84, middle school graduates; 282, high school graduates; and 149, university students or graduates. Also, 160 of them were in Seoul; 115, Kyonggi Province; 23, Kangwon Province; 66, Chungchong Provinces; 89, Cholla Provinces; 79, North Kyongsang Province; 121, South Kyongsang Province; and 7, Cheju Province. This survey has 95-percent trustworthiness, and the margin of error is plus or minus 3.8 percent.

Burma

Karens Bracing for 'Major' Government Offensive

BK1611023992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Nov 92 p B3

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Manerplaw, Burma—Karen guerrillas are bracing for a major offensive as the Burmese Army prepares for its biggest assault yet to end Karen demands for an autonomous homeland.

Both sides are reinforcing bases and building up their manpower, weapons and supplies for the government's dry-season offensive. Fighting has already erupted in several heavily-jungled areas along the rugged Thai-Burmese border.

Karen leaders have dismissed as "sheer lies" Rangoon's announced ceasefire in the Karen State, saying the Burmese Army never stopped military operations against the Karen National Union (KNU), which has been fighting successive Burmese military rulers, demanding greater autonomy, for over 40 years.

KNU President Gen Bo Mya and other senior KNU leaders also reject Burmese junta leader Maj Gen Khin Nyunt's accusation that the Karens took advantage of the government suspension of military activity since April to initiate attacks the Burmnese troops.

"What Khin Nyunt has said is just sheer lies like in the past. Although there has been no fighting along the (Thai-Burmese) border during the past three months the Burmese Army has intensified its attacks (against the Karen, guerrillas) deeper inside Burma in Kawkareik, Pa-an, Papun and other areas," said Bo Mya.

"Since the SLORC (ruling junta State Law and Order Restoration Council) never stopped fighting, there is no start to it either." The KNU, in fact, has lost three of its jungle bases since early last month—saw the camp on the Salween River on October 6, Maw Pha Thoo on the Moei River at the end of October, and Htee Moo Khee, which is located North of Papun township, on November 6, he said.

The 65-year-old Karen leader said his group had difficulty acquiring strongholds along the Moei and Salween rivers, his 20,000 people had never lost hope and were determine to fight on.

"Victory does not always depend on large quantities of weaponry," he said in an interview over the weekend. Independent analysts said the Karen group, which is the largest and strongest anti-Rangoon movement, had about 8,000 troops.

Bo Mya believed that the coming dry season operation could be the toughest time yet for his people as Rangoon had greatly boosted its strength in the area.

An addition to the usual 8 mm, 105 mm, 106 mm and 120 mm mortars and recoil-less rockets in their arsenal, the Burmese forces had brought in a new type of cannon, understood to have been obtained from China, to Thinganyinaung for the planned offensive, he said.

The Burmese Army had code-named this year's offensive Than Lat, or Operation Sword, he said. Last year's dry season operation had been named Operation Dragon King.

In addition to capturing three Karen bases, the army was currently attacking the KNU's 7th Brigade Headquarters opposite Tak's Mae Ramat District and was poised to move against at least four other Karen outposts—Naw Hta on the Moei River opposite Tak's The Song Yang District, Karen mobile bases around Htee Moo Khee, Manerplaw and the Karen's special 101st military base at Kawmoora, which has withstood Burmese attacks for the past four years.

Thai border officers and Karen leaders have divergent views on when the fighting will intensify. Some expect the attacks on Manerplaw and Kawmoora to resume as early as next month, but others believe Rangoon will start the offensive only after the National Convention, scheduled for January 9.

Bo Mya said the Burmese Army was still establishing communications links and constructing supply routes to the frontline at Manerplaw and Kawmoora.

However, the Karen general expressed his confidence that Burmese troops would not be able to overrun the two camps unless they crossed the Moei River into Thailand and attacked from the rear.

He said a senior Thai army officer had promised during a recent meeting in Mae Sot that the Thai Army would not allow the Burmese to intrude into Thailand.

Last year Manerplaw was heavily bombarded with air strikes and heavy artillery shells. Burmese troops have reinforced Thi Pha Vicho, or the Sleeping Dog Hill, after capturing it last year. The hill was the Karens' first line of defence for Manerplaw.

According to Maj Walter, Karen commander of Mae Ra Hta camp on the Salween River, Burmese reinforcements on the hill fired a number of heavy mortars two weeks ago to test the range of their artillery.

Walter, whose base confronts the Sleeping Dog Hill, said he expects the Burmese to resume the attack next month when more men, ammunition and food supplies had been sent in. He was confident that his 8000-strong force would be able to stop the Burmese from advancing toward Manerplaw, as they were well supplied with ammunition and medicine.

Political Role for Military Criticized

BK1711055792 (Clandestine) Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Article by Aung U: "Political Leadership and the Role of the Defense Services"]

[Text] Listeners: The SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] issued a statement on 2 October 1992 on the formation of the Convening Commission for the National Convention. Section 4-B of the statement reads: To perform a supervisory role to ensure that in establishing basic principles for the state constitution at the National Convention, discussions are carried out within the framework of the following objectives.

What the statement implies is that discussions can take place within the prescribed objectives, that they cannot go beyond the stated framework, that no new subject can be discussed, and that no discussions can take place beyond the framework.

The crucial and most important objective out of the stated six objectives set down by the military clique is objective No. 6—the right of the Defense Services to take a leading role in state national politics in the future.

It means the Defense Services shall provide political leadership.

This is the outright destruction of a basic democratic practice in blatant violation of Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This destroys the theory and practice of nonintervention of the military in civilian administration and the control and domination of civilians over the military. This amounts to an open declaration that in the future, the issues affecting country and national issues shall be settled through power or use of force. This is a clear and open declaration that the military clique will continue to hold on to power for the long term in order to hide the offenses committed by the military clique during its lifetime and to unjustly continue to enjoy the country's wealth and resources.

To further elaborate on the matter, to cherish democracy is to cherish the administration of the people; for the military to continue to dominate politics in various forms is to cremate democracy. The objective of military participation in political leadership not only contravenes basic democratic principles, but amounts to rejection of universal democratic practices and the blatant practice of military dictatorship.

Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: The will of the people shall be the base of the authority of government. This shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage, and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free-voting procedures. [preceding passage in English followed by Burmese translation]

Hence, it clearly states that there is no governmental authority without the will of the people. The first recorded kings in Burma are called Mahathamada [great president] or the king elected by the will of the people. Only such kings have a mandate for political leadership and to rule the country.

In present time, democratic governments can rule the country and give political leadership only according to the wishes of the people.

It has only been recently that the people of Thailand opposed and removed General Suchinda, who did not come to power through election but tried to obtain power against the wishes of the people. The foolish SLORC military clique in Burma is still trying to ignore the wishes of the people.

The Defense Services are to protect the country from external danger and to safeguard the lives and property of the people. Internal politics has nothing to do with the military; the military must be controlled by civilian politics. In other words, the military must be under the supervision of the civilians elected by the people. This is an accepted practise in democratic nations.

What it means is that the Defense Services must understand the practice and value of civilian administration. If they wish to enter civilian politics, they should resign from the military and stand in elections as civilians after a prescribed period so that they will understand what it is like to be a civilian. The defense minister should not come from the Defense Services but must be a civilian. This is one of the key provisions of civilian supremacy. The SLORC military clique, however, is doing the opposite, by working towards having the military take a leading role in civilian politics.

The world has plenty of examples of disastrous outcomes for countries stemming from the leading role of the military in civilian politics. Military participation in civilian politics implies issues will be resolved through use of force. When military commanders participate in civilian politics, who would dare dispose them and criticize them. They are bound to resort to use of force when there are attempts to dispose or criticize them.

If such a principle is implemented, the future of Burma will be stained with blood in the long term.

The military clique wants to continue clinging to power in order to hide the offenses it had perpetrated all along. Therefore, when they hear the (?people) mention military tribunals, they are stunned like an earthworm touched by salt and are scared to death at the prospect of one day being put on trial when they no longer have power.

Thai General Suchinda promulgated a law for general amnesty just before he was deposed. After he was deposed, however, the democratic government which came to power revoked the law. The military clique, which had committed atrocities more severe than that of Suchinda, are shaking at their knees with fear after seeing the Suchinda precedent. They have schemed up this participation in political leadership out of this fear

of losing power. They are bound to try to cling to the seat of power since they have tasted power and wealth stemming from the countries resources.

In conclusion, the so-called continued participation in political leadership is not in the interests of the people, but for the benefit of the military clique. The declaration on military participation in political leadership not only shows disregard for the people but amounts to an insult and trickery. Therefore, there is no other way, but for the people to resolutely oppose this principle and fight the military dictatorship to the end.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Offer To Cut Back Import Duties Announced

BK1611105192 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0926 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov. 16 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia has offered through the Uruguay Round of negotiations to cut back import duties to around 8.9 percent from the present 10.2 percent, representing a 1.3 percentage point drop and placing it in a comparable position with many of the developed countries.

International Trade and Industry Ministry Secretary General Asmat Kamaluddin also said that the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) will see the cutting back of import duties zero to five percent by 2008, beginning January 1, 1993. AFTA covers the six member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprising Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Singapore.

Opening a workshop on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) here Monday, Asmat said Malaysia attached great importance to GATT owing to the country's dependence on multilateral trade and market access. The GATT 1990-1991 international trade report ranks Malaysia as the world's 26th largest exporter and 24th largest importer. He said that stability and open markets in the multilateral trading system would be more critical for Malaysia in the near future.

Under the second outline perspective plan, manufactured exports were expected to reach 209.3 billion ringgit (about U.S.$83.72 billion) by the year 2000 from 64.5 billion ringgit (about U.S.$25.8 billion) in 1991, which represented 68.4 per cent of Malaysia's total exports.

Japan Urged To Join East Asia Economic Caucus

BK1711100592 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Nov 92 p 12

[Editorial: "EAEC [East Asia Economic Caucus]—A Misunderstood Caucus"]

[Text] Here is what businessmen from Keidanren, Japan's Federation of Economic Organisations, say about the proposed East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC): It is consistent with the spirit of GATT.

More opinions from these businessmen: EAEC does not run on a collision course with groupings which promote trade liberalisation such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum. Its formation will serve as an open forum which will focus on policy issues on trade and investment, personnel exchanges and cooperation on the environment.

Keidanren's conclusion: EAEC is not a trade bloc.

Now, that may be a surprise to U.S. officials of the outgoing Bush administration who have been exerting pressure on Japan to turn down membership in an EAEC. The question is whether the Japanese Government will take the cue from its businessmen and openly support EAEC's establishment.

On past form, it is hard to envisage a resounding "Yes, we support the EAEC" from it. For a nation which is the number one economic superpower, Japan has been surprisingly, and disappointingly, shy about the idea of sitting at the helm of the EAEC with China and South Korea. Clearly, the shy nation needs prodding from her neighbours in East Asia.

When the proposal was first brought up, the Japanese Government politely declined to give any form of commitment to it for fear of straining its economic ties with the United States, which has told it to stay off from what it alleged was "a trade bloc in the making".

Perhaps the latest developments in the international scene have altered Japan's reservations and it is waiting for the right time to declare its stance on the formation of the EAEC. Indeed, the scenario indicates that it is time that Japan takes a strong stance on several issues: The establishment of a trade bloc, the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA), has shown the world that the U.S. professed commitment to a multilateral trade system is a sham; GATT is on the verge of collapse due to the stubborn refusal by the United States and the European Community (EC) to compromise on the oilseeds issue.

Japanese businessmen have realised that it cannot be silent on the U.S. manipulations of the world trading system. They endorse the EAEC because they realise that such a gathering of nations for consultation will provide a base for international economic justice and fair play. Where GATT fails regional cooperation is the key to a new economic world order and will bring all nations to the path of globalisation.

The U.S. objection to the EAEC because it is a trade bloc lacks persuasive logic. How can it be a bloc when the objective is to sit down together and discuss ways to breach tariff walls? Perhaps a sign that reads: "Regional consultation, stupid!" will help the Clinton administration to view EAEC realistically.

The Japanese Government should not only look across the Atlantic and the Pacific. A look to the aspirations of its neighbours in the East Asian region, with whom it shares a common destiny, would surely strengthen a multilateral trading system.

All nations' policies should be based on their needs and on what is fair—certainly not on the dictates and political pressure of the economically insecure United States.

Opposition to Japan's Plutonium Shipment Planned

OW1711074292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0717 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov. 17 KYODO—Malaysia will voice its concern over the dangers posed by Japan's shipment of highly radioactive plutonium at next month's meeting of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London, a top government official said Tuesday [17 November].

Malaysia, which has barred the ship from sailing in its territorial waters in the Strait of Melacca, also wants to discuss the safety in the congested waterway, which is prone to accidents and piracy, said Science, Technology and Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding.

"We will be sending our officials to the meeting and we will certainly be registering our concern about the shipment," he told reporters after opening a chemical conference.

The IMO's Maritime Safety Committee will meet next month to discuss Japan's shipment of one ton of reprocessed plutonium from France. The plutonium is being transported home by the freighter Akatsuki Maru with the route undisclosed for security reasons. Although all safety measures have been taken by Japan for the shipment, which has the blessing of the United States, several countries that lie along possible routes have barred the Akatsuki Maru from their waters to prevent the possibility of an accident.

Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore have already banned the freighter from their waters in the 800 kilometer-long strait, the shortest sea-lane from Europe to Japan. They cannot, however, prevent the ship from sailing in international waters of the strait.

An IMO official said in Kuala Lumpur last week the 135-member maritime body can stop the Akatsuki Maru if member countries can convince it the plutonium shipment is unsafe.

The IMO, a United Nations agency that regulates worldwide shipping, has approved the shipment because it met all specified safety requirements.

Law said he is planning to meet Japan's ambassador to Malaysia soon to discuss the shipment, particularly the freighter's route home. Japan has assured countries the ship will stay clear of their respective 200 nautical-mile (370-kilometer) zones.

Japan plans to transport 30 tons of reprocessed plutonium from Europe over the next 20 years for its nuclear power program.

To promote safety in the Strait of Malacca, Malaysia has proposed imposing a toll on vessels plying the narrow waterway to pay for environmental cleanups and security patrols, but this has been opposed by shippers.

Concern Expressed Over Trade, Environment Link

BK1611115892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0931 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov. 16 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia is concerned over inter-linkages between trade and environmental issues under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT], as well as the current impasse in talks over agriculture subsidies.

International Trade and Industry Ministry Secretary General Asmat Kamaluddin said trade policy instruments were being used to support environmental objectives, based purely on ethical considerations or political pressures from domestic interest groups.

He described the use of unilateral trade measures as "a dangerous and negative precedent".

An even more dangerous precedent is the use of trade measures to restrict imports of a product, to impose a country's own environmental standards on a third country.

He was speaking when opening a four-day workshop on GATT at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations Malaysia here. The workshop instructors are Mohamed Hamid and Raymond Krommenacker of the GATT Secretariat in Geneva.

Recently, Austria imposed a legislation eco-labelling tropical timber products while several Japan prefectures and German provinces have banned the use of tropical wood in buildings, raising the ire of Malaysia, a major wood exporter.

Asmat said a working group within GATT had been formed to address this issue, particularly to ensure trade liberalisation was not hampered by the unjustified use of trade measures for environment reasons.

He said the current deadlock in the eighth round of talks, the Uruguay Round, between the United States and the European Community over agriculture confronted the GATT with its greatest challenge since its birth in 1948.

The United States and EC are embroiled in heated discussions over U.S.'s demand that the EC terminate subsidies on oilseeds such as soybeans and sunflower seeds used for animal food and cooking oil.

A successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round talks, stalled for the past two years, would help maintain and further improve market access for Malaysian exports, he said.

Austria Asked To Delay Labeling

BK1311153092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Malaysia has requested Austria to hold back the implementation of a law on the labeling of tropical timber temporarily until further clarifications are made on the matter. Primary Industries Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik said Malaysia hopes the Austrian Government will find a better solution to the eco-labeling issue so that it does not escalate to the extent of forcing retaliatory action.

He told newsmen this after receiving Austria's special envoy Dr. Peter Jankowitsch and his delegation in Kuala Lumpur. The delegation was specially sent by the Austrian Government to clarify the matter. Datuk Sri Dr. Lim said he will be visiting Austria in due course to present Malaysia's case to the Austrian Government. Malaysia views the eco-labeling as discriminatory. Dr. Jankowitsch, a member of parliament and also a former foreign minister of Austria, said the law was originally intended to inform consumers on the type of timber products used and was not meant to be discriminatory against tropical timber. However, Datuk Sri Dr. Lim said as soon as the law came out, Malaysia had no qualms that it was discriminatory. Austria should do something to assure Malaysia and ASEAN that the law is not discriminatory. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Violations in Early Nov Reported

BK1711072192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The Khmer Rouge launched attacks using infantry troops and fired rockets into State of Cambodia [SOC]-controlled areas in the first and second week of November, according to sources at the Committee for Military Coordination with the United Nations of the SOC. A number of soldiers, people, and localities suffered serious damage.

The sources specified that in Kompong Speu Province, Khmer Rouge troops fired three B-40.5 rockets into Thmar Puok Village in Thpong District and wounded six people on 7 November at 1645. At 2000 on 8 November in Banteay Meanchey Province, Khmer Rouge troops from Division 519 fired three H-107 rockets on positions of Battalion 71 of the Cambodian People's Army [CPA] in Ta Pho Village in Thmar Puok District.

In Kompong Cham Province on 7 November, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] forces, in cooperation with Khmer Rouge troops from Division 920, attacked positions of the SOC's Regiment 36 in Phka Dong Village in Dambe District, wounding four CPA soldiers.

In Battambang Province on 4 November, about 70 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Division 36 opened fire, shelled, and robbed people in four villages in Moung Rusei District. At 1900, they attacked Sramar Meas Village in Prey Svay Commune; (Cham Ra-a) Village in Prey Svay commune at 2020; Run Village in (?Puok) commune at 2000; and Rumchek Village at 0100 in Prey Svay commune. Following is the damage caused to the people's property by the Khmer Rouge: 100,000 riel and 13,300 kilograms of rice were taken away; a buffalo was wounded; five fully loaded oxcarts were taken away; and documents at the (Cham Ra-a) village office were burned.

In Kompong Thom Province on 4 November, Khmer Rouge troops from Divisions 417 and 785 attacked villages in Bak Sna commune in Baray district, wounded one person, and took away two policemen's weapons, a B-40, a B-62, 20,000 riel, and seven chi [weight measurement equivalent to about 3.75 grams) of gold.

'Over 500' Vietnamese Troops Sent to Battambang

BK1611042592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] According to people's sources in Battambang Province, the Hanoi authorities have sent over 500 aggressor troops by boat from Vietnam to settle at Kbal Tau in Moung District of Battambang Province since the beginning of November 1992.

The sources said these Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressor forces plundered the people's land along the banks of the Tonle Sap Lake and built their houses there. Some of them have built houseboats on the banks while others live in boats.

Some Yuon aggressor troops are Yuon cadres. They control the Yuon forces in this area and district and commune-level puppet administrators. Some are the Yuon civilians who are armed, have been organized by Hanoi authorities to launch expansionist and annexationist activities in Cambodian areas where they are residing and earning their living.

Since the arrival of these Yuon aggressor forces, Cambodian people cannot earn their living or fish in these areas, the Kbal Tau people say. They added that Kbal Tau land was handed down to them by their ancestors and that they would not allow the Yuon aggressors to continue occupying Kbal Tau and killing Cambodians. They would jointly fight against the Yuon aggressor forces to liberate our Kbal Tau land.

Hun Sen Receives Former French Minister 14 Nov

BK1511071692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] On the morning of 14 November at the office of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, cordially received (Claude Malraux), former minister in charge of human rights and member of the European Parliament, who is on a three-day visit to the State of Cambodia [SOC].

On this occasion, H.E. Hun Sen informed the guest about the SOC efforts to implement the Paris peace agreement. The Khmer Rouge, however, have refused to do so and even violated the peace accord. He also talked about the persistent goal of the party and the SOC Government to hold the presidential election ahead of the election of a constituent assembly in Cambodia. He also expressed concern over the fact that the Khmer Rouge continue to create instability in the peace process in Cambodia. The UN Security Council in particular should resolve the problem properly and appropriately to enable the Cambodian peace process to move forward.

Replying, (Claude Malraux) thanked H.E. Hun Sen and the SOC Government for creating favorable conditions for his visit to proceed smoothly. He stressed that the goal of this visit is to understand the situation in Cambodia and to assess what he should do to assist Cambodia in the election. He pointed out that upon his return he will disseminate among the French people the real situation in Cambodia and the aspiration of the CPP for a genuine peace for the Cambodian people.

Official on Arrival of French Navy Vessel 16 Nov

BK1611152592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 13 November, Vice Admiral Um Samkhan, chief of the Defense Ministry's Navy Department, received Colonel (Soret), French military attache in Cambodia, to discuss a number of issues related to the cooperation between the naval forces of the two countries, Cambodia and France, in the sea west of Cambodia as part of the process of implementing the Paris agreement. To promote and improve the implementation of the Paris agreement in Cambodia, Colonel (Soret) on this occasion mentioned the departure of a French Navy vessel, which is due to arrive on 16 November 1992 on the order of the French Government.

Vice Adm. Um Samkhan expressed joy at the French Government's attention to advance the implementation of the peace accord. He also discussed the military situation in Cambodia, particularly in this last phase in which the Khmer Rouge continue to violate the cease-fire. The Khmer Rouge's refusal to take part in the implementation of the agreement remains an obstacle hindering the peace process in Cambodia and a pretext to continue the war to seize power through military means.

On this point, the vice admiral chief of the Navy Department requested that UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces, particularly France which contributes to peacekeeping efforts in Cambodia, take appropriate measures against whichever party refuses to abide by the agreement, particularly the Khmer Rouge who are still intransigent and who remain an obstacle to peace in Cambodia.

The vice admiral expressed firm hope and conviction in the arrival of France's modern ship in Cambodia. He also said that the Cambodian People's Army of the State of Cambodia, particularly our Navy in the area, will certainly strive to cooperate well with the French forces in order to quickly find peace for Cambodia and tranquility for the country and people.

Chea Sim Leaves for Visit to Japan 14 Nov

BK1411062092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] A high-ranking delegation of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia's Government led by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, left Phnom Penh at 0800 on 14 November for a visit to Japan.

Accompanying H.E. Chea Sim were Yim Chhaili, member of CPP Central Committee and health minister; and Yit Phuthang, member of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Prey Veng provincial party committee and people's committee.

Seeing the high-ranking delegation off at Pochentong International Airport were their excellencies standing members of the CPP Central Committee, including Say Phuthang, chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; Bou Thang; Chea Soth; Sar Kheng, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and interior minister; Say Chhum, standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; General Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and defense minister; Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mat Ly, vice chairman of both the National Assembly and the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; Nguon Nhel, agriculture minister; Ney Pena, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; Sim Ka, chairman of the Phnom Penh municipal party committee and people's committee; Gen. Ke Kimyan, first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Army; members of the CPP

Central Committee; ministers; deputy ministers; directors general; and deputy directors general of many ministries and services.

Representatives of the Japanese Embassy to Cambodia were also present.

Homage Paid on Czech, Slovak Leader's Death

BK1711071092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0423 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 17 —National Assembly chairman Chea Sim has sent condolences to the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Czech and Slovak over the death of its chairman Alexander Dubcek.

He said in a message that the death of Alexander Dubcek, a great and heroic son of the Czech and Slovak people, was a great loss in the cause of independence, peace, democracy and world progress.

In another development, a delegation of the State of Cambodia headed by National Assembly vice chairman Mat Ly recently paid homage here to the late National Assembly chairman of the Federal Republic of Czech and Slovak.

Indonesia

Sanctions Against Khmer Rouge Recommended

BK1711071192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Indonesia and France have recommended to the United Nations the imposition of sanctions against the Khmer Rouge for blocking the peace process in Cambodia, which has been going on for one year.

In a report to the UN secretary general, Foreign Ministers Ali Alatas of Indonesia and Roland Dumas of France condemned the Khmer Rouge for refusing to disarm and to allow UN peacekeeping forces to enter the zones controlled by them.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Paris that the two foreign ministers, within their capacity as co-chairmen of the Paris peace talks, also appealed to the United Nations to set up checkpoints along the Thai-Cambodian border. They also called for a more active role to be carried out by the 15,000 men of the UN peacekeeping contingent in Cambodia, particularly in the implementation of the planned general elections.

Japan Urged To Join ASEAN Against Regionalism

OW1311133392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1255 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Jakarta, Nov. 13 KYODO—A ranking Indonesian official urged Japan Friday to join Southeast Asian nations in working to head off a possible tilt toward regionalism among North American countries.

The request was made by Radius Prawiro, minister-coordinator in charge of economic affairs, during his meeting with a mission of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), Japan's top business lobby.

The 47-member mission has just arrived in Indonesia from Singapore on the second leg of a tour of three Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries to exchange views with government and business leaders.

Radius told the delegation, headed by Keidanren chief Gaishi Hiraiwa, that Southeast Asian states oppose any trend toward a regional trading bloc by the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA).

Saying that averting such a move is in the interests of Japan, too, the minister called for Tokyo's support for the ASEAN campaign against protectionism by NAFTA, which is made up of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

In response, Yutaka Kume, Keidanren vice chairman, said it is vital to maintain harmonious relations among NAFTA, ASEAN and Japan.

Opposition To Renominate Suharto for President

BK1411142592 Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian 3 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Jakarta—Drs. [academic title] Markus Wauran, secretary to the PDI [Indonesian Democratic Party] parliamentary faction, concurrently deputy treasurer of the PDI Central Executive Council, says that the PDI faction will certainly nominate Suharto again as president for the 1993-98 term. "From what I have learned from my recent visits to the provinces, I am convinced that the PDI faction will nominate Suharto again as president for the 1993-98 term," he said to reporters in parliament on 2 November.

However, when he was asked which provinces he had visited, Markus declined to elaborate. "It will be unethical if I mention the names of the provinces," he said. Markus noted that what he had said was also supported by remarks made by Nico Daryanto, PDI secretary general, who recently spoke to reporters in Manado, North Sulawesi. In an interview carried by a local newspaper, Nico was quoted as saying: "I think there is a possibility that the PDI will nominate Suharto in the coming general assembly of the People's Consultative Assembly.

In this connection, Markus believes that a PDI executive meeting to discuss the party's presidential nomination should be held earlier than scheduled. "This is necessary so as to enable PDI members throughout the country to have clear guidelines and prevent them from being

uncertain about this presidential nomination. In fact, doubts over the PDI stand on this issue are now spreading."

When he was asked what would happen if the results of the PDI executive meeting were different from what he had said, Markus said he would comply with whatever results were achieved by the meeting. "If the meeting adopts a resolution to nominate Suharto as president again, all PDI members must comply with such a decision even though some of them may disagree because this executive meeting holds the highest authority in the party. Besides, if what I said today about the presidential nomination turns out to be incorrect, I will still accept the the executive meeting's results." Markus also stressed that what he had said was sincere and without any pressure or persuasion from anybody.

Suharto To Attend G-15 Summit, Visit France

BK1711132092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] President Suharto and his entourage are scheduled to leave for Dakar, Senegal at about 2000 West Indonesian Time [1300 GMT] on 19 November 1992 to attend the G-15 [group of 15 South countries] summit. After attending the summit, President Suharto and his entourage will proceed to Paris for talks with French President Francois Mitterand. This was disclosed to newsmen in Jakarta today by Minister and State Secretary Murdiono.

According to Murdiono, there may be bilateral talks between President Suharto and other heads of state or government attending the summit from 20 to 22 November. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao asked President Suharto for bilateral talks in Dakar.

In Paris, President Suharto will hold talks on various issues with President Mitterand. Besides holding bilateral talks, President Suharto as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] will brief the French president on the results of the NAM summit in Jakarta, particularly the spirit of the Jakarta message. President Suharto and President Mitterand will also discuss the North-South dialogue for constructive purposes, energy, and the environment, and the democratization of the United Nations.

In addition to Mrs. Suharto, the presidential entourage will also include Radius Prawiro, coordinating minister for economics, finance, and industry; Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, Minister and State Secretary Murdiono, and Ambassador Nana Sutresna.

Alatas on Territorial Waters Talks With Australia

BK1711013092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has reiterated that Indonesia and Australia will hold a meeting on an agreement on territorial fishing waters.

Following a meeting with his Australian counterpart Gareth Evans in Jakarta yesterday, Minister Ali Alatas said Indonesian fishermen are frequently arrested by the Australian authorities because they are not clear about the boundaries of the territorial waters.

A total of 40 Indonesian fishing boats were arrested by the Australian authorities in 1991.

Alatas, Australia's Evans Vow To Enhance Ties

BK1711100892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Ali Alatas, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, says that Indonesia welcomes any discussions on human rights and, specifically, the East Timor issue with any foreign parties. However, Indonesia rejects such discussions that are based on untruths or are aimed at cornering Indonesia and distorting facts. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said this during a joint press conference with several Australian ministers, including Foreign Minister Gareth Evans in Jakarta this afternoon. The press conference was held after the signing of a number of cooperation agreements between the two countries following the conclusion of the Indonesian-Australian ministerial forum held in Jakarta on 16 and 17 November.

Meanwhile, the Australian foreign minister said on the same occasion that it would be improper to keep raising the human rights and East Timor issues every time the two countries hold talks. He said that there were many other areas in which they could promote cooperation and friendship.

The cooperation agreements signed by Indonesia and Australia cover four areas—mutual investment protection, copyrights, education and training, and customs arrangements.

Ministerial Forum With Australia Concludes

BK1711070692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Australian and Indonesian ministers are winding up two days of talks in Jakarta before concluding their first joint ministerial forum with the signing of a number of bilateral agreements.

Radio Australia's correspondent, Ian Macintosh, reports that the five Australian ministers and their Indonesian counterparts held a series of one-on-one meetings before reassembling for a final plenary session.

The ministerial forum, given an extensive coverage in the local media, will conclude with the signing of bilateral agreements on nuclear science, investment protection, copyrights, customs, and education.

Whilst the forum has concentrated on trade and economic cooperation, differences between the two countries have also been reviewed. In their discussions,

foreign ministers, Gareth Evans and Ali Alatas, discussed the current situation in East Timor. Senator Evans called for an easing of security measures in the province and its reopening for visits by foreign officials, agencies, and journalists.

Philippines

Government To Request Grant, Loans From U.S.

HK1611121492 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 15 Nov 92 p B-1

[Text] President Ramos has directed the agriculture and finance departments to file a request with the United States Embassy in Manila for the acquisition of a $13.09-million grant and approval of two soft loans worth $40 million.

The President issued the directive to Agriculture Secretary Roberto Sebastian and Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario after receiving a report from Speaker Jose de Venecia that both financial assistance packages have been allocated for the Philippines through the U.S. Public Law [PL] 480 Program for fiscal year 1993.

In the report presented to the President, De Venecia said the country's request for $20 million for livestock breeding purposes under Section 108 of the PL 480 program has been considered favorably pending compliance of required bank guarantee.

De Venecia also disclosed that Far East Bank and Trust Co. has already guaranteed $8 million and negotiations are underway with Land Bank of the Philippines for the remaining $12 million.

This was achieved following a meeting between a Philippine panel composed of legislators and officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry and the representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Under Title II of the U.S. PL 480 program, the Philippines will also receive a grant or donation of $13.09 million that will be used to procure rice for the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo disaster.

The Philippines is also entitled to a $20 million soft loan for soybean mills needed by the livestock industry to be mixed with corn for animal feeds.

The U.S. PL 480 program involves 25 other countries.

Meanwhile, the President named former Vice President Fernando Lopez as Presidential Adviser on National Development and two other individuals as members of the Civil Aeronautics Board [CAB].

Appointed members of the CAB were Victor S. Limlingan and Atty. Jose Claro Tesoro.

Ramos: U.S. Request on Amnesty Program Studied

HK1711014992 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] The United States has formally asked the Ramos government not to grant amnesty to communist rebels who killed American soldiers. This was stated by President Ramos, who said the request was contained in a letter sent by U.S. Ambassador Richard Solomon to the Foreign Affairs Department. The president said the U.S. request is now being thoroughly studied by the Justice Department and National Unification Commission [NUC]. He stressed that his decision on the matter will be based on the recommendations of the Justice Department and the NUC.

Defense Secretary Answers Request

HK1711092592 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The decision regarding the granting of amnesty to political detainees is an internal matter for discussion. This was stressed by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, National Unification Commission [NUC] member, in response to the U.S. embassy's request not to grant amnesty to detainees who have been involved in the killing of American soldiers like Colonel Nick Rowe. De Villa said that the NUC will still study the U.S. Embassy's request. He added that the NUC will also monitor the National Democratic Front's [NDF] reaction to the request.

[Begin De Villa recording in English] We have not tabled that, but I think it's scheduled in one of our meetings. I think it's an internal problem. The matter of decision can be discussed in the NUC, but we have not done it yet. I think it is one of our agenda in the coming meetings. We will have to ask and monitor the reaction of the NDF. [end recording]

The U.S. Embassy's request was forwarded by De Villa to the NUC as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs. Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo said the NUC must make a final decision regarding the issue which, he said, is critical in proving the government's credibility in the implementation of the amnesty program for all rebels. Romulo refused to comment on the American view that amnesty might serve as a disincentive for foreign investors, especially if the government releases the detainees involved in the killing of the U.S. nationals.

Communist Rebels Favor Two-Day Cease-Fire

HK1611062492 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Communist rebels have expressed favor for a cease-fire on Christmas and New Year's Day. Former

communist leader Rafael Baylosis said the 48-hour cease-fire is more acceptable than the former plan, which called for 72 hours.

Baylosis stressed that instead of fighting over the decision on how long the cease-fire should last, the government should strive to ensure that the peace negotiations with rebels will push through and succeed. Prior to this, President Fidel V. Ramos approved the suspension of military operations on Christmas Day, but left the National Unification Commission with the decision regarding the length of the cease-fire.

Congressman: Muslim Rebels Favor Christmas Truce

HK1711103792 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] is in favor of the proposed Christmas cease-fire. This has been learned from Lanao del Norte Congressman Macabangkit Lanto, who said that the MNLF's position was personally relayed to him by the secessionist group's leaders. Congressman Lanto added that, apart from the yuletide truce, the Muslim rebels are also willing to hold a dialogue with the government, sit at the negotiating table, and talk with the National Unification Commission panel. Lanto said the Muslim rebel leaders often contact him when they want to convey their wishes to the government. Should the duration of the cease-fire be extended—as proposed by the progressive bloc in the House—Lanto said the MNLF might also agree to it.

Defense Ministry Committee Clears 3 Top Officers

HK1711050592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] A special committee of the Department of National Defense has exonerated Vice Admiral Mariano Dumancas Jr., the Navy's flag officer; Rear Admiral Virgilio Marcelo, superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy; and the chief of Southern Command, Lieutenant General Gumercindo Yap, of involvement in illegal activities which came to light during an investigation by the Commission on Appointments on their confirmation.

The committee, headed by Defense Undersecretary Fernando Campos, was formed by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa last month to carry out its own investigations regarding accusations against the three officials.

Earlier reports indicated that the National Bureau of Investigation [NBI] possessed damaging information against Marcelo, Yap, and Dumancas. However, NBI Director Epimaco Velasco clarified that this was just basic information on the officials.

Ramos To Meet With Former Singaporean Premier

HK1711033792 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 17 Nov 92 p 2

[Report by Marichu A. Villanueva]

[Text] President Ramos yesterday said he will try "to listen" to some of the advices that former Singapore leader, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew might give him when they hold one-on-one talks tonight at the Palace.

The President is hosting a state dinner for the visiting former Singaporean head who is here in Manila as "official visitor" of the Philippine government.

The President yesterday disclosed that he has invited Lee to come to Manila for an official visit after Mr. Ramos learned that the former Singaporean prime minister had accepted to become the resource speaker of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) conference on Nov. 18 at the EDSA [Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue] Shangri-la Hotel.

The President and Lee will hold dialog at 7:00 p.m. tonight at the Palace and this will be followed by the state dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Lee at the Malacanang Ceremonial Hall.

"Certainly, we will listen to him (Lee)," the President said when asked to comment on the reported advice of the former Singaporean premier to make full use of his executive powers to set the country's course towards his administration's vision towards acquiring the newly industrialized status.

"I'll be happy to talk these matters with Senior Minister Lee," he said. [sentence as published]

"I hope he (Lee) also listens to me," Mr. Ramos riposted.

The former Singaporean premier has been a close friend of Mr. Ramos even before the latter assumed the presidency.

Local businessmen have been admiring the authoritarian leadership of Lee which they believed spurred Singapore to become an economic tiger in Southeast Asia today.

NDF Confirms Plan for Coalition Government

HK1511074892 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] leadership has confirmed it plans to set up a coalition government.

Father Frank Fernandez, NDF secretary general, said their primary objective, if they succeed, is to assign representatives from various sectors of the society to the new government. He also confirmed that they plan to merge the Armed Forces of the Philippines with the New People's Army [NPA]. Here is part of Father Fernandez statement:

[Begin Fernandez recording] The NDF, along with the people, will set up the democratic coalition, a government in which farmers, laborers, teachers, women, fishermen, national minorities, professionals, media, and doctors are represented. [end recording]

On the plan to merge the AFP, the Philippine National Police [PNP] and the NPA, Father Fernandez said:

[Begin Fernandez recording] There should only be one armed forces, the New People's Army. The New People's Army will be the army of the people. [preceding sentence in English] If PNP men want to join the new armed forces, they have to pass certain requirements based on discipline, politics, and military rules. [end recording]

Thailand

Deputy Premier on U.S. Trade Negotiations

BK1711070592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] All government agencies concerned have been told to review various trade issues raised for negotiation with U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills. Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak said that trade issues include pattern law and intellectual property rights. He said these issues will be reviewed so that they are in accordance with guidelines on the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade or GATT. The deputy prime minister said the Ministry of Commerce has been told to be prepared for negotiations with the new U.S. trade representative on trade disputes between the two countries. The United States is scheduled to review its priority foreign countries watch list on 15 December this year. More than 100 Thai export items to the United States are included on the U.S. watch list. The United States has threatened to remove Thai export items from its Generalized System of Preferences or GSP privileges. The deputy prime minister, who also serves as chairman of the International Economic Relations Policy Committee, said the committee also plans to invite U.S. congressmen to visit Thailand to boost closer ties between parliamentarians of both countries which will help facilitate the solving of trade issues between the two countries.

Government Prepares for Trade Talks

BK1711091292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 17 Nov 92

[From the "News in Perspective" feature: "Thailand Gets Prepared To Handle Trade Dispute With New U.S. Administration"]

[Text] Although many people are optimistic that U.S. foreign policy toward Thailand under the Bill Clinton administration would be mainly enhanced, Thailand needs to prepare itself to deal with more protectionism to be imposed by the U.S. Administration as believed by many observers. After the 13 September general election in Thailand with an elected government in place, the U.S. has resumed aid to Thailand. The U.S. aid has been suspended following the 23 February military coup last year. However, Thailand has also been warned of possible adverse effects if the new U.S. Administration was not satisfied with Thailand's measures to protect intellectual property rights. In fact, trade dispute between the two countries has been prolonged for several years, especially on the issue of intellecutal property rights. The U.S. trade representative last month announced that Thailand's patent laws did not adequately protect U.S. patent holders. Thailand is still on the U.S. priority foreign country watchlist under which it is subject to trade retaliation under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act. The U.S. has not yet taken actions against Thailand due to improved political conditions in this country. Some analysts believe that the possible retaliatory action the US might take against Thailand was the suspension of U.S. tax concessions on Thai exports under the Generalized System of Preferences, GSP privileges. Around the middle of next month, the U.S. will make a decision whether to suspend GSP privileges for Thailand or not. (?In order to more constructively handle) trade disputes with the new U.S. administration, Thailand will set up a new body called the Office of Coordination of International Economic Affairs as proposed by Deputy Prime Minister Suphachia Phanitchaphak. The new body will serve as the secretariat to the International Economic Policy Committee and it will be in charge of handling Thailand's negotiating position in international trade talks.

Thailand hopes that the U.S. will show its good faith by reducing its trade retaliation threat toward Thailand. This is because the Thai government has made some progress in improving the protection for intellectual property rights as demanded by the US. It has passed a new patent law to protect pharmaceutical products and stepped up the campaign against product piracy. The new U.S. Administration has attached great importance to human rights, the environment, and unfair trade practices. The Chuan Likphai government has made it clear that it will focus on the solving of this problem. Thailand is prepared to send a trade team to explain to the U.S. Government that Thailand will take drastic actions against those found guilty of child labor abuse and will suppress child prostitution. Thailand's Labor Law will also be amended to make it more democratic. The Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs will hold talks with the transitional team of President-elect Bill Clinton to seek the new U.S. Administration's policy toward Thailand in order to get prepared to deal with trade issues between the two countries. Thailand has also provided the better treatment for Myanmar [Burmese] students living in exile here. These developments should help improve Thai-U.S. trade relations and create bright prospects for future trade negotiations between the two countries.

Burmese Officials Arrive, Discuss Insurgent War

BK1711011192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Nov 92 p A4

[By Marisa Chimprapha]

[Text] Chiang Mai—The war against insurgency in Burma will be a prolonged one unless militant minority groups lay down their arms, a senior Burmese military officer taking part in border talks with Thai officials here said yesterday.

Maj Gen Muang Aye, eastern regional commander, said Rangoon will have to maintain its offensives against the ethnic insurgents because they insist on continuing with the fighting.

Military operations will cease when the guerillas surrender to the junta, he added.

He said the Rangoon recently retook from the Karen two outposts which they had captured earlier and would continue suppressing them.

Accompanying Muang Aye from Rangoon was outgoing Burmese Ambassador to Thailand Nyunt Swe who echoed Muang Aye's tough comment.

"The war in Burma will come to a halt when the Karens give up their resistance and surrender to the military junta," said Nyunt Swe.

Their comments contradicted a speech by Burmese Foreign Minister Muang Gaw at a United Nations General Assembly in New York, that military operations against the ethnic guerillas would be halted immediately to bring peace to Burma.

Thailand has been seriously affected as a result of the military junta's military actions because that country's soldiers have always crossed into Thai territory to attack the Karens from behind.

A Thai military officer who asked for anonymity said the war in Burma will never be over because the military junta dominating the government, will have no justification in running the country if it ended.

Nyunt Swe and Maung Aye are here to take part in a Thai-Burmese border regional meeting on border tensions.

Maj Gen Yingyot Chotiphimai, Army commander of the Third Military Regional Bureau, will represent the Thai side.

An informed source, meanwhile, said yesterday that Thai side is expected to raise at the meeting a crucial incident in which Burmese troops captured a strategic Thai military base, called Hill 491 in Chumpon's Tha Sae district.

The Rangoon soldiers at the hill are being reinforced with men and weapons preparing to resume their battles with the Karens. Supreme Command Chief of Staff Gen Charun Phunsanong recently told reporters that Burmese side would be asked to withdraw its troops from the hill or face forceful retaliation from Thailand.

The two-day border meeting, starting today, is also aimed at allowing Thai and Burmese soldiers to get to know each other in order to prevent future possible misunderstanding where mutual cooperation is concerned.

Once the meeting is over tomorrow, the participants will play golf and go on a sight-seeing trip in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai provinces, according to a source.

Burmese soldiers in September arrested 12 Thai soldiers including a district chief of Mae Hong Son province and Thai border officials who crossed the border to Huay Pong Lao camp in Burma.

The group was brought to Rangoon before being freed a week later.

Both Thai and Burmese authorities reiterated that the abduction of the group was a result of misunderstanding by Burmese soldiers who at the time were newly deployed at the camp.

Military in Timber Trade With SRV, Cambodia

BK1611061892 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 15 Nov 92 p 23

[Text] Last year about 200,000 cubic metres of wood including logs were exported from Vietnam, half of this volume originating from Cambodia, according to a veteran timber trader in Vietnam.

This year, he estimates that 60,000 to 70,000 cubic metres, again half from Cambodian forests and half from Vietnam, have been exported to Thailand and Singapore through three ports in Vietnam: Da Nang, Quy Nhon and Nha Trang.

The timber trade on the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, although it operates quietly, is more active than that along the Thai-Cambodian border, according to the source who has been trading logs and other timber in Vietnam for five years.

He said he is considering retirement at the end of this year if he can no longer find "channels" to continue his activities.

"The Thai military is involved in the timber trade; so are the Vietnamese military," he said, adding: "What does the UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] know."

Vietnam has banned the export of raw logs since 1990. From April this year exports of raw logs and sawn timber have been totally prohibited in line with a policy to stop over-exploitation of forests while value-added activities are devdoped, such as furniture-making, according to Vietnamese Forestry Ministry officials.

Logging in Cambodian provinces bordering Vietnam has intensified in recent years when Vietnam faced problems of rapid deforestation due to population pressure, as well as the fact that each province in Vietnam could earn money through logging.

"Because the product comes out through Vietnam does not mean the wood is all Vietnamese" the trade said.

Transporting logs out of Cambodia through Vietnam is much easier for "small, independent trader" because the products do not have to pass through routes controlled by the "chao phor", or what he called "guns" in the east and northeast of Thailand.

The only non-tariff barrier he faces is getting the Cambodian wood out through Vietnam is the condition of the roads, which he describes as "the most savage in Southeast Asia".

The route most used to transport log from Cambodia links Rattanakiri with Gia Lai-Kontum Province in Vietnam.

This was built by the Americans as a strategic route during the Vietnam war and, in recent years, has been off-limits to unauthorised visitors but is well known by Thai timber traders.

At the request of buyers, Vietnames authorities in areas bordering Cambodia can arrange for a mix of Vietnamese and Khmer labourers to fell and process wood in the forests of Rattanakiri and Mondolkir—and deeper inside Cambodia in Stung Treng—and then transport the products out through Vietnam.

Along the Vietnamese-Cambodia border, one worker with one saw can constitute a sawmill.

Since he arrived in Vietnam in 1987 he has twice seen situations where "all hell broke loose".

The first was when Thai loggers and timber traders flocked to Vietnam immediately after the nationwide logging ban in Thailand. Now the same people are moving to Cambodia.

During this time, the Singaporean traders have been the only people who never ceased timber trading with Vietnam for Vietnamese or Cambodian wood.

As a guide to the profitability of the trade, the trader would say only that for each cubic metre of wood he makes US$5-8 on average after deducting kickbacks.

"I rely on the economy of scale—selling in big lots," he said.

Most products from Cambodia are logs. The speed and extent of logging in that country means the last forest in the neighbourhood could vanish in two years.

"I am not an environmentalist, nor an economist. I'm just an opportunist," he said.

Next year he may join the bandwagon in search of business in Cambodia, this time in a totally different field when there is no more timber left to trade.

Senior Officers Urge Buildup of Naval Forces

BK1411015792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Nov 92 p 1,3

[Excerpt] Senior navy officers yesterday called for strengthening of the country's battleship fleet because they foresee minor conflicts over rival territorial claims in the region.

This would bolster Thailand's position at the negotiating table if conflicts take place, they said.

Navy Chief-of-Staff Admiral Surawut Maharom said major sea wars are unlikely to occur but what he called "low-intensity conflicts" over interests and resources in regional waters are more probable.

He said when a minor sea conflict occurs, it could be mediated by a third party and the side which has more bargaining power will hold the advantage.

Deputy Supreme Commander Adm Prida Karasut said Thailand's naval forces should be at least as well-equipped as those of other members of ASEAN in order to have bargaining power.

Some ASEAN members are equipped with submarines and more frigates, he said.

The call for a buildup in naval forces came at the first day of a two-day seminar, "National Interests in the Gulf of Thailand," organised by the National Security Council [NSC] in Pattaya.

The NSC, a key policy-making body on national security, is examining problems in the Gulf and their impact on the economy, international politics and national defence, according to NSC secretary-general Gen Charan Kunawanit.

Adm Surawut said the Navy has to extend its presence in the Gulf of Thailand due to the decline of the US military presence in the region.

He said it is inevitable that concerns about the country's interests will play a role in future development of the Navy.

Even though world tensions have eased, military investment and preparations are necessary to protect the country's fishing fleets, sea lanes, oil rigs, industrial development zones and tourism in coastal areas, he said.

He saw no involvement by Thailand in major conflicts in international waters.

He warned that armed conflicts over the Spratly Islands could disrupt the country's sea lanes if the country is not well prepared.

The islands are part of overlapping territorial claims by China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and the Philippines.

Participants at the seminar agreed that emphasis on the country's defence should be shifted from the Northeast to the South because there is less of a threat from Vietnam and more of a threat to Thai fishing boats from neighbouring countries in the South.

Air Force Chief-of-Staff Adm Samat Sotsathit said the Air Force has over the past few years deployed more men at air bases in southern provinces such as Surat Thani, Hat Yai and Prachuab Khiri Khan.

A squadron of F-5 fighters has been deployed and more radar stations have been set up. Adm Samat said a new squadron of F-16 jet fighters will enhance air defence in the south.

But he said the country still needs airborne tankers to extend the range of F-16s, which can now only fly as far as Malaysia.

The country should purchase four Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft (AWACS), worth some 20 billion baht, to create a 24-hour early warning network, he said. [passage omitted]

Minister on Possible Naval Base on Andaman Sea

BK1511014592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Nov 92 p A1, A2

[By Wassana Nanuam]

[Text] A Cabinet member yesterday urged an increased role for the Royal Thai Navy in the protection of the country's economic interests.

Prime Minister's Office Minister Dr Sawit Photiwihok also indicated government support for the establishment of a naval base on a plot of land previously acquired by the navy on the Andaman Sea, at a seminar on the strategic and national interests in the Gulf of Thailand.

Senior naval officers, meanwhile said the site would be used to house naval facilities and units, including, for the first time, a submarine fleet, and an anti-aircraft battery.

The establishment of Thailand's first naval base on the Andaman Sea would be in line with the government's policy to launch the Southern Seaboard Development project which includes a strategic "land bridge" across the southern peninsula from Kanom distnct in Surat Thani to Krabi province, Dr Sawit said.

The two-day seminar, organized by the National Security Council at the Royal Chomthian Pattaya Hotel, came to a close yesterday.

Declaring the government's "resolute" determination to realize the Southern Seaboard Development project, Sawit said the navy must project itself to protect the economic interests generated by the development there.

"The Royal Thai Navy has never established a base at the Andaman Sea. But to my knowledge, the navy has bought a plot of some 4,000-5,000 rai of land in Khanom district and I guess that would be used to set up a naval base," he said.

Sawit also teased the navy for the quiet land acquisition: "I wonder how the navy was able to acquire the land so quickly. Perhaps the government would allocate a budget for the navy to help buy land which we need urgently. Perhaps we may ask the navy to set aside part of its plot for development use."

He added that in the initial phase, four-lane highway would be construct to link Khanom with Krabi before it would be expanded into eight lanes covering a total distance of about 200 kms. The government wants to launch the project within the current fiscal year after the Japan International Cooperation Agency and Bechtel conclude a feasibility study, he said.

He said the highway can be put to economic use once the construction was complete.

The minister said now that the Cold War was over, the Armed Forces, particularly the navy, should assume a greater role in protecting national economic interests.

He said the navy must also follow up on the government's plan to work out clear regulations on the exploitation of valuable marine resources by helping to protect them.

The government could assign the National Economic and Social Development Board and the National Security Council to demarcate zones off the coasts of Thailand into development and conservation areas.

The zoning would help reduce investment risks and would help the navy to work out plans to provide protection, he said.

Today, Sawit and Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Banthatthan will tour the South, beginning with a trip to Surat Thani, to gather first-hand information on the appropriate site for the launching of the land bridge.

Deputy Supreme Commander Adm Prida Kharasut, who was at the seminar, told The Nation the navy would use the plot of about 5,000 rai in Khanom district to house naval facilities in accordance with the plan to create "regional naval commands".

The area will house navy units including an anti-aircraft battery and coast guards, he said.

It would also serve as a base for a submarine fleet which the navy plans to set up for the first time, he added.

"We bought the land so quickly because we had mapped out a long-term plan and we just tried keep to the schedule. If we had dilly-dallied, we would probably have had no area to purchase when the need arose," he said.

At the initial stage, the site would not be used as a full-fledged base, he said.

He said the navy could explore the possibility of selling part of the plot to the government if the administration asked for it.

Third Navy Region Commander Vice Adm Chawalit Itsarangkun na Ayutthaya also told THE NATION that the facilities to be set up at the plot would be used to support the regional command's operations.

A unit of coast guards had already been based at the Thap Lamu area in Phatthalung province, he said.

Vice Adm Chawalit said the navy needed a submarine fleet because of occasional violations of Thai territorial waters by India's submarines on the Andaman side, and by Chinese and Malaysian submarines in the Gulf of Thailand.

He said the navy was also buying new anti-submarine vessels to improve its surveillance and intelligence gathering capability.

Chawalit also revealed that the navy had bought another plot of about 29,300 rai in Krabi to cope with the plan for the expansion of the regional navy force.

Regional Impact of Navy's Expanded Role

BK1611031792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Nov 92 p B6

[Article by Kawi Chongkitthawon entitled: "Navy To Get Greater Role in Defence"]

[Text] After four decades in the shadows, the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) is back with gusto! Strongly backed by the Chuan administration with a bigger budget and long term maritime strategies in a new security environment, the RTN is now at the forefront of Thailand's defence planning to protect the nation's "economic interests" on the high seas.

The RTN's new role calls for rapid modernization of the fleet—replacing its archaic vessels with state-of-the-art warships, frigates equipped with antisubmarine weapons, helicopter carriers and submarines—allied with plans for a regional command and a better intelligence service with surveillance and patrol capabilities in both the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea.

Obviously, the end of the Cold War and the Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia have reduced the land-based threat to Thailand, allowing for a greater focus on the role being played by the RTN now and in the future.

Under Chuan, exploration and protection of economic interests in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea are the top priorities, as highlighted by the government's decision to revive the Southern Seaboard Development project as a strategic "land bridge" to link the two seas.

The ongoing Eastern Seaboard project will also require naval protection given its importance and strategic value.

In the last week's security seminar organized by the National Security Council, the expansion of the RTN and its new role in protecting the economic interests and security of southern Thailand received unanimous support from academics, civilians and the military. In fact the idea is not new; it was part of an earlier draft of the govermnent's defence policy, but was deleted for fear it would stir up regional controversy.

Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Wichet Karunyawanit said he would need a modern fleet to guard sea lanes and lines of communications for merchant shipping and to protect Thailand's growing maritime interests, including more than 50 oil and gas platforms and tens of thousands of Thai trawlers.

The RTN buildup has also been predicated on the increased naval might of China and India.

In a recent interview, Adm Wichet noted that China planned to build a commercial port in Burma, which will be Beijing's first outlet into the Andaman Sea.

The navy chief said Thailand is monitoring this development very closely. "As long as China does not send its naval vessels on port visits to Burma it would be all right," he said. China caused a stir in 1985 when its naval vessels visited Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

China, which has been Thailand's close ally, has stirred up concern with its naval buildup and its increased presence in the South China Sea. Although Thailand is not a claimant to the disputed Spratly Islands, the Thai position on the issue could be problematic because of its need to maintain good ties with China, ASEAN and Vietnam.

Although India has never been considered as a threat to Thailand, some senior naval officers have now begun to take into account India's recent buildup of its blue water naval fleet, which ranks sixth in size in the world. The RTN believes that from its western naval command headquarters in Bombay, India can project forces up to the South China Sea.

Third Navy Region Commander Vice Adm Chawalit Itsarangkun na Ayuthaya has revealed that India's submarines have occasionally violated Thai territorial waters on the Andaman side, while Chinese and Malaysian submarines have also been active in the Gulf of Thailand.

In response to this new strategic situation, the RTN wants naval forces with a longer range that would include a submarine fleet, turning the "brown navy" into the "blue navy".

To prepare for the future regional command headquarters, the RTN has acquired a total of 34,000 rai of land in Surat Thani and Krabi.

The RTN is being forced into a more positive role by the rapidly changing situation. Countries in the region have declared their 200-mile economic zones. Increased fishing interests, piracy, patrolling of overlapping territorial waters with Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Burma and Indonesia all call for increased presence of the RTN.

Indeed, the RTN has come a long way, from World War II to the unsuccessful "Matthatan" coup in 1951, which involved a group of naval officers in a plot to overthrow the government of Field Marshal Plaek Pibunsongkhram. Since that incident, the RTN was virtually blocked out of the national politics by the Army.

Sailors and marines deployed during the October crisis in 1973 protected the fleeing pro-democracy students from army troops. And during the May crisis of this year the RTN could proudly declare that its men had fired not a single shot during their mission to keep peace on the Thonburi side and at Phra Pinklao Bridge. Consequently the RTN is today the most respected branch of the Thai armed forces.

While the May bloodshed weakened the political influence of the Army and Air Force, whose troops shot and killed demonstrators, the RTN was unaffected and Adm Wichet could continue to hold the navy commander's post, while the commanders of the Amny, Air Force and Supreme Command were replaced. This explains why the RTN's request to modernize its forces has received support from the Chuan administration.

There is one caveat, though. With Thailand located between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, an overemphasis on protection of maritime economic interests, if blindly pursued could fuel a naval buildup in the region and upset the delicate balance of power prevailing now. This must be avoided at all costs.

True, it will take at least five more years before the RTN can re-arm, in part or in full, but the Thai government must make sure that the expansion of the RTN does not surpass its legitimate role and responsibility.

Most importantly, the RTN should remain a true defence force and any appearance that Thailand is trying to project its influence over neighboring countries—which would only pose dangers for the region.

1993 Military Exercises With Malaysia Planned

BK1611094092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] A meeting in preparation for ground military exercises between Thailand and Malaysia was held at the B.P. Grand Tower Hotel in Hat Yai District of Songkhla Province this morning. Jointly presiding over the meeting were Lieutenant General Suwinai Boribunnangkun, commander of the Thai Joint Task Force, and Major General Datuk Mohamed Ali, commander of the Malaysian Joint Task Force. It was their first meeting since the signing of the agreement between the countries during the meeting of the General Border Committee.

After the meeting, Lt Gen Suwinai said that the planned exercise is aimed at promoting joint operations against the enemy. During the exercise, troops of the two countries will jointly launch operations to repel enemy forces at the common border areas. The exercise will take place within a radius not exceeding 5 km from the common border and will not employ heavy weapons.

He noted that the exercise is also aimed at developing good relations between the armies of the two countries and providing common protection for the peoples of the two countries. During the meeting, the two sides agreed to hold joint exercises every year and that the countries will take turns hosting it. The first exercise will take place late next year.

Bilateral Trade With Egypt To Increase

BK1711024792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Nov 92 p 30

[Text] Thailand and Egypt yesterday agreed to cooperate in increasing trade between them and with other regions.

The cooperation was agreed on during a talk between an Egyptian trade delegation and Foreign Affairs Minister Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong Sunsiri at the ministry.

The trade delegation was accompanied by Thai Ambassador to Egypt Rangsan Phahonyothin.

After the meeting, Mr Rangsan said the Egyptian delegation head, Sayyid al Tarvin [name as published], president of the Egyptian Business Association, agreed to cooperate more in trade and investment.

He said the Sqn Ldr Prasong suggested more cooperation in developing trade by expanding to third countries.

Sqn Ldr Prasong suggested that Egypt cooperate with Thailand in exporting to the Middle East and Africa via Egypt, while Thailand will help Egypt export to ASEAN and Indochinese countries.

He said the idea was shared by the Egyptian head.

The Egyptian delegation also met representatives of the Federation of Thai Industries and Board of Trade and agreed to promote more trade and investment in tourism, petrochemicals, agriculture, prawn aquaculture, footwear, garment and soft drink.

Egypt is very interested in Thailand's soybean industry, artificial flowers and Thai silk.

Egypt also showed interest in importing more footwear, fruits, canned fish and vegetable oils from Thailand.

Vietnam

Leaders Hold Talks With Cuban Party Delegation

BK1211154592 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 12—A delegation of the Vietnamese party and government led by Tran Duc Luong, member of the Central Committee [CC] of the Communist Party of Vietnam and deputy prime minister, today held talks with the visiting delegation of the Cuban party and government led by Jaime Crombet, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Present [word indistinct] talks on the Vietnamese side Nguyen Cong Tan, member of the CPV CC, minister of agriculture and food industry, and president of the Vietnamese section of the Vietnam-Cuba Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Hoang Tuy Giang, deputy head of the External Relations Commission of the CPV CC Le Kim Lang, deputy minister of commerce, Le Van Truyen, deputy minister of public health, and Le Duc Cang, assistant to the minister of foreign affairs.

On the Cuban side were Alberto Rodriguez Arufez, deputy head of the External Relations Commission the CPC CC and cuban ambassadress Tania Meceira Delgado.

The Cuban head delegate briefed the Vietnamese delegation of the achievements of the Cuban people as well as difficulties they are confronted with. He affirmed the Cuban people's determination to build and defend socialism under the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party [words indistinct] President Fidel Castro. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the party, government and people of Vietnam for their solidarity, and friendship with the [word indistinct] cause.

Tran Duc Luong, for his part, informed the guests of the allround renovation of Vietnam, the initial achievements as well as outstanding problems that need to address. He expressed the Vietnamese sympathy with Cuba's great difficulties ties and affirmed that Vietnam will do its best to strengthen the lasting solidarity between Vietnam and Cuba.

The two sides expressed their determination to find appropriate forms to consolidate and further strengthen the close cooperation and friendship between the two parties, governments, and people in interests of the two peoples and peace, stability, cooperation and development in Southeast Asia, [word indistinct] and all over the world.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Delegation

BK1311153992 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 13—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here this afternoon Jaime Crombet, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba (CPC), and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, head of the Cuban party and government delegation now on an official visit to Vietnam.

Also present were Nguyen Cong Tan, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, minister of agriculture and food industry, and President of the Vietnamese section of the Vietnam-Cuba Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Hoang Thuy Giang, deputy head of the CPV Central Committee External Relations Commission and others.

Speaking on this occasion, Vice Chairman Jaime Crombet stressed that the Cuban party, Government and people are very grateful to the Vietnamese party, Government and people for their solidarity and friendship and their practical support and assistance to their revolutionary cause.

He conveyed President Fidel Castro's invitation to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to visit Cuba.

For his part, Premier Vo Van Kiet highly valued the great efforts, sacrifices and achievements of the Cuban people in national construction and defence.

He expressed his belief that the fraternal Cuban people, under the clearsighted leadership of the CPC headed by President Fidel Castro who have in the past had overcome [as received] many difficulties and trials, will achieve the objectives laid down by the 4th congress of the CPC, and make many new gains in their glorious revolution.

He stressed :

'Vietnam will forever consider Cuba its intimate and trusted friend. The Vietnamese people are resolved to unite with the Cuban people.

'Vietnam and Cuba will always support and assist each other in the interest of socialist construction in each country and for peace, stability, cooperation and development all over the world.'

The prime minister sincerely thanked President Fidel Castro for his invitation and asked the Cuban vice chairman to convey to the president, the other party and state leaders and the entire people of Cuba his best wishes.

Do Muoi Receives Cuban Official

BK1511072692 Hanoi VNA in English 0630 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi received here this afternoon Jaime Crombet, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of a Cuban party and government delegation now on an

official visit to Vietnam. Cuban Ambassadress to Vietnam Tania Maceira Delgado was present at the reception.

Vice-chairman Jaime Crombet expressed sincere thanks of the Cuban party, government, and people to the Vietnamese party, government, and people for their solidarity, fraternal friendship, wholehearted support, and practical assistance to the Cuban people's revolution.

General Secretary Do Muoi reiterated the Vietnamese party, state, and people's persistent solidarity and support to the Cuban people. He expressed his belief that the Cuban people, with their staunch and indomitable spirit of revolution and under the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party headed by First Secretary Fidel Castro, will certainly overcome all difficulties and trials, firmly defend their revolutionary achievements, and successfully build socialism on their homeland.

Vice-Chairman Jaime Crombet conveyed the Cuban party and state leaders invitation to General Secretary Do Muoi to visit Cuba. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Thai Crown Prince in Hanoi for Official Visit

Arrives 15 Nov

BK1511141592 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Excerpt] General Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon is representing the king on the official visit to the SRV during 15-20 November. The following is the report by the television pool:

The crown prince's visit to the SRV at the invitation of the SRV president began today at 1330. The crown prince arrived at the airport of the Air Force Headquarters at Don Muang to board the special aircraft arranged by the Air Force. Members of the Privy Council and the Cabinet and senior military, police, and officials saw off the crown prince.

At 1530, the aircraft arrived at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. At the airport, he was welcomed by Nguyen Viet Dung, chief of the Office of the President of the State, Vietnamese leaders, and Thai Ambassador to Hanoi Somphong Chaiyanam. The crown prince then proceeded by car to the presidential palace which is provided by the Vietnamese government as his residence. Upon his arrival, Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh invited him to the podium to receive the honor guard in the rain. The vice president gave a welcoming statement on behalf of the Vietnamese people. Replying, the crown prince said of his first visit to the SRV that he brought good wishes of the Thai people to the Vietnamese people and expressed hope that friendship between the two countries would grow stronger. The crown prince then reviewed the honor guards and was introduced by the vice president to senior Vietnamese officials and foreign ambassadors. The crown prince was then invited to his residence. [passage omitted]

Vice President Receives Prince

BK1511141992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Recorded reportage on a ceremony held in Hanoi on the afternoon of 15 November to welcome Thai Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon]

[Summary] "Dear friends: Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon, representing the king of the Kingdom of Thailand, arrived in Hanoi today for an official visit to our country at the invitation of Le Duc Anh, president of the state of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV]. This is the first official visit to our country by a member of the Thai royal family since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1976. Present at the Noi Bai International Airport to welcome Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon was Comrade Nguyen Viet Dung, chief of the Office of the President of the State."

At 1630 sharp, the motorcade escorting the crown prince and his entourage arrived at the Presidential Palace where the official welcoming ceremony took place. "Many ministers, deputy ministers, chiefs of departments, sectors, and mass organizations at the central level and in Hanoi were on hand to welcome the distinguished Thai guests. Also present at the welcoming ceremony were many ambassadors and charge d'affairs of foreign embassies in Hanoi, as well as representatives of international organizations in Vietnam."

"As the motorcade stopped, Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh walked to the door of the crown prince's car to greet him. A group of young Hanoi ladies wearing beautiful traditional Vietnamese ao dai presented fresh bouquets to the Crown Prince as an indication of the Vietnamese people's hospitality and of the friendship between the two peoples."

Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh then invited Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkhon to step on to the honorary stand while the military band was playing the national anthems of the two countries. Next, the crown prince reviewed the guard of honor before being introduced to ministers, deputy ministers, and other Vietnamese officials, as well as to foreign dignatories on hand.

"Dear friends: The Vietnamese people warmly welcome Thai Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon and sincerely hope that his official visit to Vietnam will end in success, thus marking a new step of development in the friendship, cooperation, and good neighborliness between the SRV and the Kingdom of Thailand. Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon's official friendship visit to our country will last until 20 November."

President Hails Visit

BK1611014592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] The state visit by Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon ushered in a new era of bilateral relationship, Vietnam's President Le Duc Anh said yesterday.

The Crown Prince arrived in Hanoi yesterday for a six-day state visit as guest of President Le Duc Anh.

Amid rain shower, the Crown Prince was received by Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh at a welcoming ceremony in front of the Presidential Palace.

"Thailand and the Thai people give utmost importance to the relationship with Vietnam. I am very pleased to come, and have brought with me the best wishes of His Majesty the Kin and the Thai people to Vietnam and the Vietnamese people," the Crown Prince told Mrs Binh.

Also present during the welcome ceremony were members of the diplomatic corps, Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Minister of Trade Le Van Triet, and other senior officials.

"We highly appreciate the state visit to Vietnam by Your Royal Highness, the first ever by representatives of the Thai Royal Family in the history of the two countries. This clearly indicates that a new era has been ushered in the relationship between Vietnam and Thailand," President Le Duc Anh said in a speech during a banquet he hosted for the Crown Prince last night.

In his return speech, the Crown Prince said that the King "admires the friendliness of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam."

Given similarities in many aspects such as their love for independence and peaceful co-existence, the two countries thus have good understanding and goodwill for each other, he said.

"The Thais are watching the continuous progress of Vietnam with avid interest, and we all realise that such progress can only be the result of great efforts and determination of the Vietnamese people. It also reflects the vision of the leaders," the Crown Prince said.

Today the Crown Prince will lay a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and then travel to Hoa Binh power station.

In the afternoon, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will call on the Crown Prince at the Presidential Palace.

Later, the Prince will hear an official briefing from Communist Party Secretary General Do Muoi at the Central Committee headquarters.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung said the royal visit has made the Thai-Vietnamese relationship complete."

Thailand and Vietnam only started paying attention to development of bilateral ties over the year since the peace accords for Cambodia in October last year.

Le Duc Anh Receives Prince

BK1611072692 Hanoi VNA in English 0605 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 16—President Le Duc Anh in the afternoon of Nov. 15 received Thai Crown Prince Wachiralongkon now on an official visit to Vietnam on behalf of the king of Thailand.

Among those present at the reception were Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh, Vice Premier Nguyen Khanh, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, head of the Presidential Office Nguyen Viet Dung, and Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung.

Thai Ambassador to Vietnam Suraphon Chaiyanam was also present.

President Le Duc Anh warmly welcomed the Thai prince's visit to Vietnam, the first by a representative of the Thai royal family, as a landmark in the history of the freindly, cooperative and neighbourly relations between Vietnam and Thailand, contributing to the prosperity and happiness of each country and to peace, stability and development in the region.

He further said the people of the two countries bound by longstanding friendly relations today have more favourable conditions than ever to strengthen their cooperative ties in many fields.

Prince Wachiralongkon stressed that the Thai people have followed with keen interest the constant development and progress of the Vietnamese people. He shared the Vietnamese president's view that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries are facing very fine prospects.

Le Duc Anh Speaks at Reception

BK1611123992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Speech delivered by President Le Duc Anh at a reception in Hanoi on the evening of 15 November in honor of Thai Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon; distinguished Thai guests; and Vietnamese friends: On behalf of the Vietnamese state and people, I would like to warmly welcome His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon, who is paying an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on behalf of his majesty the king. We highly appreciate the visit to Vietnam by his royal highness the crown prince, the first ever by a representative of the Thai royal family in the history of the two countries. This clearly indicates that a new era has been ushered in the relations between

Vietnam and Thailand. The visit is a landmark in the history of the friendly, cooperative, and neighborly relations between the two countries, thus contributing to the prosperity and happiness of each country, as well as to peace, stability, and development in the region.

During this visit, his royal highness the crown prince will have the opportunity to meet Vietnamese leaders and people of all walks of life and visit a number of economic and cultural establishments. The visit will make his royal highness the crown prince better understand our country, its land, people, and history; as well as our on-going renovation understanding. This visit will also make his royal highness the crown prince realize more deeply our people's friendship with the Thai people.

Your Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon, ladies and gentlemen: Vietnam and Thailand are two close neighboring countries bound by long-standing relations. Today, we have more favorable conditions than ever to strengthen these cooperative ties for the sake of the interests of each country, as well as for the common interests in the region. I firmly believe that this visit by his royal highness the crown prince will make an important contribution to the strengthening of the friendship and mutual understanding between the two peoples.

With hope in the bright future of the relations between the two countries, I would like to invite his royal highness the crown prince and all of us to raise our glasses. Good health and happiness to his majesty the king, her majesty the queen, and the royal family! Good health to his royal highness the crown prince! May the friendship and good neighborliness between the SRV and the Kingdom of Thailand be consolidated and developed with every passing day! May the official visit to Vietnam by his royal highness the crown prince end in fine success! Good health to all of you here!

Crown Prince Replies

BK1611134792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Reply by Thai Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon at a reception hosted by President Le Duc Anh in the princes' honor on the evening of 15 November in Hanoi—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency the President of the State; ladies and gentlemen: I am very happy and honored to pay an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on behalf of the King of the Kingdom of Thailand, as well as to be given such a warm and friendly welcome.

Vietnam is a country with a extensive history in the region and a neighboring country with long-lasting and continuous relations with Thailand. Despite the fact that the two countries' diplomatic ties were only established recently, our mutual relations have developed well with each passing day. I firmly believe that this will provide a firm basis for cooperation in all fields for the sake of the interests of our two countries and peoples.

Thai and Vietnamese people share many things in common. They lead a simple life; love independence, freedom, and justice; fully understand the value of peace and happiness; and appreciate and long for peaceful coexistence. These provide the principles for maintaining and developing bilateral relations. Therefore, our two countries have shown mutual understanding and goodwill.

We Thais are watching with intense interest the constant development and progress in Vietnam and realize that such progress can only be the fruit of the great efforts and steely determination of the Vietnamese people in the cause of national construction. This also reflects the clearsightedness and vision of the Vietnamese leadership. Because of these vivid manifestations, we believe that under the clearsighted leadership of your excellency the president, the SRV will have a bright future and enjoy prosperity.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to convey the best wishes of his majesty the king of the Kingdom of Thailand to the SRV, Your Excellency the President of the State, the government, and the Vietnamese people. On this grand occasion, I would like to propose that all present raise their glasses. Good health and success to His Excellency the President of State in the discharge of his noble duty! May the relations between our two countries and peoples last forever!

Vo Van Kiet Receives Prince

BK1611152392 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 16—A meeting was arranged here this afternoon between Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Thai Crown Prince Wachiralongkon.

Speaking on this occasion, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said: "The Vietnam-Thailand relation is a traditional relation between two close neighbouring countries. That relation has constantly been strengthened in conformity with the interests and aspirations of the people of each country. Nevertheless, there are some outstanding issues. The governments of the two countries will try to settle them on the basis of mutual understanding and trust in the interest of peace, stability and prosperity of each country, and in the whole region.

In his reply, Prince Wachiralongkon said :

"Thailand hopes that all neighbouring countries have peace, stability and prosperity. The Thai royal family and government is ready to cooperate with the Vietnamese to settle the outstanding issues in the relation between the two countries in the interest of peace, friendship, stability and cooperation in the region".

The prince shared the Vietnamese prime minister's view that with his visit, the Thailand-Vietnam relation has been ushered into a new, better period.

Party Leader Receives Prince

BK1611153192 Hanoi VNA in English 1504 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 16—Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, received here this afternoon Thai Crown Prince Wachiralongkon.

Present at the reception were Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam Thai Ambassador to Vietnam Suraphong Chayanam and others.

Speaking on this occasion, Prince Wachiralongkon reiterated Thailand's hope to preserve and develop the friendship, good neighbourliness and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

For his part, General Secretary Do Muoi warmly welcomed Crown Prince Wachiralongkon who is visiting Vietnam on behalf of the Thai king. He expressed the belief that with good will and mutual respect, Vietnam and Thailand would join effects to strengthen and develop continually the existing friendship and cooperation between the two countries, thus contributing to building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, and prosperity.